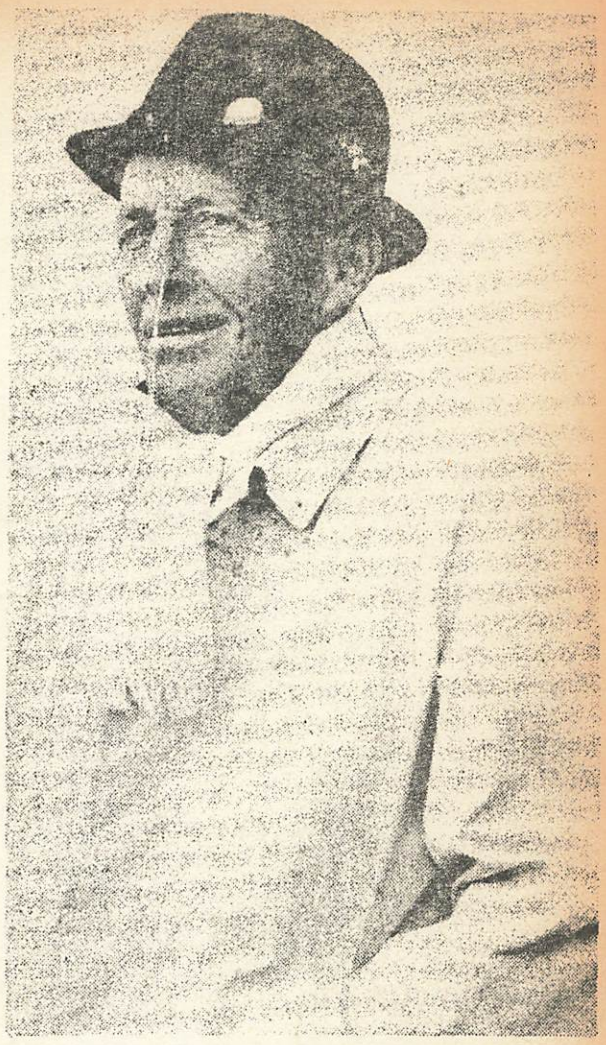
BING



Edited by REG BRISTO

BING : A date at the Palladium

NO47

THE
INTERNATIONAL
CROSBY CIRCLE

Sept 1977

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE:
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Next publication project will be the MINI-DISCOGRAPHY: details in next issue.

Pictorial Supplier, Frank Murphy, details within.

Letters, articles on all aspects of Crosbyana welcomed from members.

Keith Parkinson is also our Crosby film expert; his new address is given inside for all old (and new) correspondents.

BING: Quarterly Magazine of the INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE: Hon. President: BING CROSBY No. 47 September 1977

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The world of Crosbyana is in business, big business yet again! And as we remark later on, we can only wryly lament that Bing's bombshells have a regular habit of appearing dead between issues of this magazine. However, more of that later.

The news many are waiting for is that the GET-TOGETHER at LEEDS this year, organised as always (and this time under some stress concerned with the imminent arrival of an addition to the family!) will take place on SUNDAY, October 19. Again it is to be held at THE MANSION HOTEL, Roundhay Park, Leeds. From 3.00pm to 10.30pm

DINNER WILL BE AT 5pm: Tickets, reflecting the prevailing inflationary trend, are £3.95p. Please write to Michael with remittance immediately at:

MICHAEL CRAMPTON, 19 Carrholm Crescent, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 2NL - in order that attendance may be confirmed to the Mansion management. Programme will follow the format of recent years tho' we have the idea that if those members who have taken slides at previous meetings would care to bring them along it might make an interesting item. Will intending visitors also state a Bing record request for Mick Drury will be doing his "spot" though not necessarily in the style previously used. Many will be asking: WILL BING BE THERE? If there is the slightest chance his arrangements will permit it rest assured we will make the effort. BUT, we cannot be optimistic on this score.

YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE IF A CROSS APPEARS IN THIS BOX:

This method has been adopted as members have explained that the little slips previously enclosed can be overlooked, or even left in the envelopes unseen. This perhaps is a more tangible method. Two crosses indicates you should have renewed LAST time - and that no further issues can be sent, unless of course, you comply!

We're sorry that our one-time practice of greeting new members in print in the mag has fallen into disuse - largely because of pressure on space. We hope to resume this happy practice; but meanwhile all new members can rest assured they are warmly welcome to the world of Crosbyana.

LEADER

When this issue reaches you the majority will be eagerly looking forward to seeing Bing on stage. Indeed, unless the programme is changed some of you may even have had the excitement of seeing the Maestro performing in concert. Many will be realising the ambition of a lifetime; of one thing they, and we, can be sure - and that is that it is an ambition well worth realising. An experience never to be forgotten.

As we have tried to convey in the succeeding pages there has been - not to put too fine a point on it - considerable doubt as to where will Bing be appearing. And when? Announcements have been appearing in the press which have served only to confuse the situation even more.

This is in no sense a criticism. We are only amazed and delighted that Bing has once more demonstrated his incredible resilience. We left you rather gloomily in the last issue and had not the slightest idea, or even hope, that Bing would be in a state to undertake a strenuous tour of Britain - not to mention Oslo - and possibly somewhere in Germany!

And also as the following pages will show, Bing was actually trying to come to a decision as to his fitness to cross the Atlantic again while the tickets were being sold here!

Dates have been shuffled around and all those people who were due to see Bing before the Palladium at Southampton and Brighton will now be aware of the change of dates. And certainly if those dates have been cancelled.

And to all the other surprises, nay shocks, we've just seen a photograph of Bing making a TV show in the company of one David Bowie. And the caption read to the effect that there were TWO superstars.....ah well. We have been admonished NOT to knock other artists/singers in BING so that we shall NOT do. But if you can reconcile these two particular personalities we can offer both congratulations - and condolences. Still, in a modern show designed to cater for all tastes at Yuletide this unlikely formula may work at that.

Much more interesting was the news - it was coming almost daily at one time - that Bing is to grace this year's Royal Variety Performance. And this should at least raise it to - and above - the stature it used to enjoy. As soon as we learned that Bob Hope was to be the compere it was a fairly safe bet that Bing would be there, too. Most of us have managed to give the televised version of this hitherto debased show a miss this past few years. But it won't be missed out on this year, for certain.

The next few weeks are going to be very, very exciting. We're sure members are going to make the most of them.

Bert Bishop has bewailed the fact that we just have to get this issue out, tho' daily we have been anticipating the BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES album. The best we can do is to reserve a couple of pages until the very last minute in the hope that we can cover what promises to be a really outstanding issue.

WELL DID YOU EVAH!

It's surprising how often a Crosby song title is beautifully apt for BING articles. Tho' perhaps it isn't all that surprising when you consider the vast field those songs titles cover. The one above meets the situation precisely.

You will remember the last issue of BING, despite our efforts, was full of sombre news....and we ended rather glumly speculating on the potential effects of Bing's appalling fall from the stage at Pasadena in March. The prospect of Bing enlivening British golf courses this summer, or a trip here just to finish off the recordings for Ken Barnes, all seemed to be in the melting pot. More than that even, they prospects seemed bleak indeed.

And then, out of the blue, astoundingly it was briefly announced in the press, that "the legendary" Bing Crosby was to do a two-week stint at the Palladium. More than that, that he was to do a preliminary series of one-night concerts!

> We might ruefully reflect that these stunning announcements are made almost exactly BETWEEN issues of this magazine, as well as on the fact that your Editor was on a short holiday at the time. After years of comparative somnolence the Crosby scene has so changed, so blazed up into life, that it is difficult for us to comprehend what is really happening.

And that confusion is not confined to us at the supposed head of the Circle; Bing himself also seemed totally confused, if we may say so.

A stone was thrown into the pool, or if you prefer it, a heck of a spanner was heaved into the works when yet another newspaper report splashed the news that Bing's UK appearances were OFF. These reports were sparked off by our long-term - and dedicated - members in Glasgow, James Dineen.

And he had excellent grounds, too! Undeniably James had a letter from Bing dated August 15 stating quite definitely that he had had to call off his visit and his concerts therefore. Others, too, had similar letters with the "disappointing" news.

James Dineen, by the way, hastened to explain that the description of him as "Bing's No. 1 fan", while immensely flattering, was purely the work of newspaper reporters who descended on him. Jas. needn't worry. We know how that happens.

Les Gaylor, who conversely might well wear the crown of Bing's No. 1 fan, was one who had a similar letter - he also had a letter from Bing the very week the first news of the tour appeared in the papers. But while a fascinating letter it said nothing of the tour.

That is in no sense at all criticism. We are firmly of the opinion that Bing himself was confused. That he was desperately trying to work out - under pressure - the feasibility of the tour. Was he fit? Even if fit, could he stand up to 3-hour stage shows? It goes without saying that Bing would not consider a sub-standard show, with his own massive part in it curtailed, perhaps having to sit down.... however, we'll not

speculate any further at this juncture. But one can hardly imagine, we suppose, what the promotors felt like when they read in the papers that the tour was off! And you will see elsewhere that this time the promotor is not Robert Paterson, who was the promotor in 1976.

> Our best course is to hand over to the best-informed of our members for his comments and assessment of the situation. But we should preface his remarks by saying that when he wrote this he was not, even then, aware that the provincial dates were going to be fulfilled. This announcement came - on the radio firstly - on the morning of Friday, 2nd September. And only, surprisingly, was Liverpool to be omitted from the list.

LINES FROM LES GAYLOR

The bombshell for me came when John Bignell, one of our members in Wembley, telephoned me and said that Bing was indeed to do a two-week engagement this year at the Palladium. I was greatly surprised - but equally highly delighted. Then when I heard of the provincial tour at five venues I was even more surprised indeed than I was when I heard of the five concerts proposed for Bing between August 9 - 14 - in Canada!

The reason for my surprise was that in a short note sent to me on 30th June last by Bing's accountant, Mozelle Seger, she wrote as follows:

> Dear Leslie,
>
> Mr. Crosby is feeling a little better but not well enough to do concerts. He will be in London in September to do the TV special.
>
> Harry and Nathaniel are with him in Guadalajara, Mexico, this week. He enjoys the warm weather there and enjoys walking with Nathaniel around the golf-course. He plays with an iron.
>
> He looks good. Was in the office for most of the day last Monday.

In a letter Bing sent to me dated July 11 it will be noted that he says nothing of any concerts - anywhere. It is my personal opinion that Bing had it well and firmly in his mind on July 11 that he intended to cancel any British engagements.

And this is supported, of course, by his letter of August 15 when he states that he delayed his cancellation disclosure as long as possible. The concerts, for instance, at the O'Keefe Theatre in Ontario, were cancelled. Bing's letter of August 15 - which led to the sensational "cancelled" reports in the press - certainly showed Bing was still in the same frame of mind. There will be much speculation, no doubt, but it will not be difficult to understand the conflicting emotions Bing was almost certainly undergoing.

> Equally however, I have the feeling that the concert that Bing did at the Concord Pavilion on August 16 could have reassured him and put him in a different frame of mind, so that he decided he could carry out the Palladium shows after all. That Bing was impressed by news of the bookings already made is also likely - and there may, of course, have been other, personal, reasons.

But it really was amazing what an impact the cancellation announce-

ment had here. There was certainly no need for further advertising should Bing reverse his decision - as, of course, he did. It wasn't long before the Palladium shows at least were confirmed and I had a letter from Bing's secretary, Lillian Murphy dated August 24:

> Dear Leslie:
>
> As You are undoubtedly well aware by now, Mr. Crosby's concerts at the Palladium are on again.
>
> However, he did want me to drop you a note, since he had written earlier saying they had been cancelled.
>
> All the best,
>
> LILLIAN.
> Secretary to BING CROSBY.

But it can be seen just how confusing matters have been; the Editor (Reg) actually prepared three circulars for members - but conflicting rumours and announcements meant they had to be destroyed! They were out of date....

Now that things had crystallised - tho' still with no confirmation of the Provincial dates - its clear that in any case Bing has a very busy programme whilst here, recording his Christmas TV show and also the SEASONS album for Ken Barnes/Pete Moore.

> Ken Barnes tells me he has been approached by the producers of the BBC's TOP OF THE POPS programme with a view to Bing appearing in it to sing BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES, the "A" side of his new single, which is backed by a lovely little tune written, in fact, by Ken and Pete called DEJA VU. This is scheduled for release by United Artists on September 9 - in other words, you should have it at this particular time.

In fact, members should also have the new album BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES, due to appear on September 16 also on the United Artists label, of course. Seems Ken took a copy of the record over to Bing in the States on his last visit and left the record with him. In a recent phone chat with Ken Bing expressed his delight at the record. And this, I am certain, will be the reaction of our members to this album, so many of whom have written to me to express their appreciation of the drive and enterprise that Ken Barnes has given to Crosby-ana. Naturally these comments have been passed on to Ken who appreciates them very much. Obviously without Ken's efforts over the past few years the Crosby record scene would be considerably quieter.

> BING HAS DECIDED NOT TO SIGN EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE POLYDOR COMPANY BUT THEY HAVE, NEVERTHELESS, AGREED TO FINANCE THE MAKING OF THE "SEASONS" ALBUM. There have been a couple of changes from the original lay-out of this recording. One of the remakes Bing wishes to do is IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME instead of SUMMERTIME. So the new look of the album when completed will be:

SEASONS - album:
- Seasons/Spring Will be a Little Late This Year (already recorded)
- Autumn in New York.
- April Showers
- June in January
- June is Bustin' Out all Over
- September Song.
- Sleigh Ride
- In the Good Old Summertime

On the Very First Day of the Year (Barnes-Moore)
Summer Wind
When I Was Young.

SEPTEMBER SONG will have the verse which is missing from Bing's original recording; WHEN I WAS YOUNG is a song written by French singer, Charles Aznavour and will replace THE YEARS OF MY OUTH by Michel Legrand, one of the originally-scheduled songs.

> I have a personal reason for being particularly pleased with this album, altogether apart from the fine arrangements and the singing generally. When he told me some while ago of his intentions to have Bing record the SEASONS project I asked Ken if he would put on his listing of songs to put before Bing one of my favourite songs - AUTUMN IN NEW YORK. The Ol' Maestro knew of my request and I feel it was a friendly touch to me for him to include it.

I am sure the Editor will have updated my piece should any further news arrive after I've completed this piece. And now to change the subject - just slightly.

> Over the years many members have expressed a great desire to have the opportunity to be able to purchase some more of the Bing/Buddy Cole CBS radio recordings, known to be available. Because of this I have recently sought the opinions of Basil Grillo of BING CROSBY ENTERPRISES - the man who largely guides Bing's affairs these days. His reply was as follows:
>
> Dear Leslie: In answer to your enquiry about the Bing-Buddy Cole recordings for CBS, we do have plans over a period of time to release some of these records; however, there is so much material currently available in addition to what we are already releasing that it does not make any commercial sense for us to release any more of this for the time being. Undoubtedly it will eventually all find its way into the market.
>
> August 22. Regards....

But more tangible, MCA are releasing the BING & CO album in October - THIS October, that is.

Ken Barnes and Pete Moore have collaborated in writing a television musical in which Fred Astaire and Twiggy have expressed great interest. Bing, asked if he would do the narration, has in turn expressed HIS interest. Should this crystallise Bing would be back in Britain again in the Spring to do the recording.

Finally I would like to thank the many people who have written to me - and I hope to meet many of them at the Palladium during the period Sept. 26 and October 8 - and I must tell the Editor of the large numbers of people who write and tell ME of the pleasure they get from BING. Until next time....

Editor: Well things did clarify after Leslie submitted his quarterly piece - and as we have already said, the Palladium is "on" as is the provincial tour with the unfortunate exception of the Liverpool Empire date. Meanwhile, while we were in the throes of will he won't he? Bing was making his "come-back" to the stage - come-back of course, after his unhappy experience at Pasadena. It was the success of this and, more importantly, the way Bing weathered it, that obviously influenced him in changing his mind about his British shows.

Overleaf we are happy to be able to tell you just what the papers said in the States about that concert.....

 (from the OAKLAND TRIBUNE.

BING STILL SINGS NICE, EASY

We are grateful to so many American members for forwarding these reviews from Stateside newspapers.

By Charles Shere
Tribune Music Critic.

Just a little stiff of back, but with the famous easy voice remarkably the same, Bing Crosby pick-up last night at the Concord Pavilion where he left off last spring in Pasadena. His 25-foot fall into the pit there came to mind only when he made a joke of it - and that only happened a couple of times.

The crowd loved him, of course. He drew a standing ovation of homage, not mere welcome, when he first stepped onto the stage, and a longer one when the show broke up well past 11 pm; only the prematurely raised house lights could have broken it.

> The show was marred badly by a long breakdown in the audio equipment. For at least 20 minutes all microphones refused to work.

'Its been a while since I've had a night out," Crosby sang, then launched into IT'S GOOD with a strong, rock-influenced beat. Other newish songs followed from time to time: SEND IN THE CLOWNS, with an explanatory intro (you always send in the clowns, Bing pointed out, when some disaster has happened on stage in the circus), Carole King's I'LL BE THERE, THE WAY WE WERE.

But it was clearly the old standards the crowd wanted and they were the best music of the evening. MARY LOU, GONE FISHIN', SWEET LEILANI and so on, with a long medley on each half of the enforced intermission during his set.

Enforced, because the sound system went stone cold dead on him. The first time it has happened to Concord, the emcee apologised later, but that did not help: for what seemed like twenty long minutes there was nothing to do but noodle. Crosby was game: he pantomimed a long shaggy dog story, sat reading his cue-sheet while the Joey Bushkin Jazz Quartet churned out fillers.

Finally it worked again - they wired up a whole auxiliary set-up - and Crosby came out, grinned ruefully, thanked us for our "patience and tolerance" and allowed as how "anyway, its better than falling in the pit, I guess'.

To make something of a family night of it Harry Crosby, 19 years old, sang a couple of duets with the old man - GONE FISHIN' and PLAY A IMPLE MELODY - and played a Villa-Lobos study on the (acoustic) guitar, with impressive technique and sensitivity. He showed his versatility by also accompanying his own vocal on I WON'T LAST A DAY at the piano.

Daughter Mary Frances, a year younger, did a couple of dance routines and sang a couple of duets, too, and then it was time for WHITE CHRISTMAS, its verse fooling most of the audience. Then the farewell: Crosby suggested that all singers these days have to have their own signature tunes - Sinatra's MY WAY, Bennett's I LEFT MY HEART IN SANFRANCISCO ('I broke my a-- in Pasadena' quipped Bing, then immediately apologised for the impropriety: but who could fault The Groaner's taste?)

The Joey Buskin Quartet played well, particularly under the duress of non-existent sound system.

Weds. August 17, 1977

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE SAME CONCERT: Newspaper not known: By JOHN STARK

If you take the freeway, its not that far from the Cow Palace to the Concord Pavilion. But last night the two locations were worlds apart, ... at least, in musical mileage. On one side of the generation gap, and the bay, was Kiss, the outrageous punk rock group. On the other side was BING CROSBY, the legendary crooner.

Thousands of middle-aged and elderly groupies packed the cavernous Concord Pavilion last night to cheer on their singing idol. I'm happy to report the world's most popular vocalist (he's sold over 300-million records), was in fine, fine form. His baritone was rich and mellow, and when he launched into a medley of his umpteen million hits, the crowd swooned, sang along and applauded wildly.

> Wearing a blue blazer and polka-dot tie, the 76-year-old Crosby looked as if he just stepped out of his first road picture.

This was the singer's first concert since he fell off a stage in Pasadena last March (He's taking the show on a three-week tour to Norway and England). Unfortunately, this show had its share of bad luck, too. While Crosby was part way into his collection of golden oldies, his microphone went dead. There was a 20-minute period of silence as electricians scrambled about plugging and unplugging speaker cords. The audience took the delay patiently, and when the sound finally returned, Crosby remarked:

> "SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS. BUT IT IS BETTER THAN FALLING INTO THE ORCHESTRA PIT..."

The Concord audience was a fair and wholesome representation of middle America. Couples smooched and hugged, and brought along martinis to sip under the overcast sky. Flashbulbs popped continually as Crosby sang, and there were so many men in white shoes it looked like a white Christmas.

Crosby is the epitome of casual elegance. Whether he's acting in a movie, or singing on stage, he makes everything look so easy. He muffed the lyrics last night to two songs, SEND IN THE CLOWNS and I'LL BE SEEING YOU, but nobody, most of all Crosby, seemed to mind.

Performing with the crooner were two of his children, Mary Frances and Harry. Although I would have preferred they remained home in Hillsborough, the audience adored them. Harry played classical guitar, piano and sang, while Mary Frances, for reasons beyond me, came onstage every so often to dance around her father.

My only real complaint was the overemphasis on jazz, which is not what most of the audience came to hear. The first hour was devoted to the Dave Frishberg Fi , which performed such esoteric jazz numbers as DEAR BIX. A dixieland or swing band to warm up the audience was certainly more in order for the nostalgia-starved customers.

Accompanying Crosby was the irrepressible Joe Bushkin Jazz Quartet, which, on its own, performed outstanding hyped-up arrangements of THE MAN THAT GOT AWAY and I LOVE A PIANO.

During his hour on stage, Crosby sang the story of his career, from the early days with Paul Whiteman, to his prolific career in radio and movies. He sang some new songs, and he sang a lot of old ones. He even included WHITE CHRISTMAS, still the biggest selling record of all time. When he performed upbeat numbers, like SWINGING ON A STAR, and PENNIES FROM HEAVEN, the crowd clapped along. And when he sang the slower ballads, like SWEET LEILANI, you could hear sighs of reminiscence through-

out the house.

My favourite number of the evening was an uptempo OLD MAN RIVER, excellently backed by Bushkin on piano. The song seemed to sum up the mood of the evening . Across the Bay, America's No. 1 teeny-bopper group was performing, while just hours before the Crosby concert, Elvis Presley, the king of rock 'n roll had died. And yet, there on the Concord Pavilion stage, the ever-youthful and ungimmicky Bing Crosby was playing to a packed house. Like Old Man River, he just keeps rolling along.

Editor: Much to warm the heart there, I imagine! Not much wrong with America after all! But plenty to comment upon - apart from the second writer reverting to the 76 year old Bing....

Reading the first review - an excellent one - we get the impression the concert was very much on the lines of the ones we have seen here. The second description, however, reveals considerable differences. We knew, of course, that Bing had decided to open his show with FEELS GOOD, FEELS RIGHT in a much faster temp for he told us in the last issue of BING that he felt it would make an excellent opening number so treated.

> BUT WHAT A PERFORMANCE FOR THE AMPLIFYING SYSTEM TO BREAK DOWN - FOR TWENTY MINUTES AT THAT! AND BING TOOK IT IN HIS STRIDE. THERE ARE SINGERS WHO WOULD HAVE STALKED OFF VOWING NEVER TO RETURN!

And then the show opened with an hour of the unknown (here) Dave Frishberg Five....something we certainly didn't have to sit through. And you notice, too, that Joe Bushkin accompanied Bing's singing - which means, of course, he had no 44-piece orchestra of Pete Martin's calibre behind him. And then, most surprisingly, we read:

> "DURING HIS HOUR ON STAGE...."

That does represent a significant change and possibly indicates the concessions Mr. Crosby has had to make to his back injury, for here he was on stage for 2½ hours at least. But, it remains to be seen what this year's shows have to offer. It will, we venture, be fully understandable if he does not repeat his marathon efforts here this time.

Another interesting feature was that the Concord Pavilion is a largely open-air amphitheatre.....if it had been known in advance that Bing was to appear at the Palladium in 1976 during the hottest heatwave we have ever known perhaps they would have put him on at Wembley Stadium - with an audience of 100,000! And had the benefit of what fresh air was around.

The second review was accompanied by three pictures, Harry at the piano, Mary Frances dancing - and Bing, in rehearsal for the show, on a stool. The captions to these three photographs ran:

SON HARRY WAS THERE - he played piano, guitar and sang.

SO WAS DAUGHTER MARY FRANCES - she danced a little.

BUT THEIR DAD WAS THE STAR - Bing Crosby in rehearsal before Concord Show.

Its rather disappointing that it seems most reviewers find it difficult to approve "the family"....

Still another US newspaper, THE SUN ran a story on August 12:

(cont. over...

CROSBY HEADS FOR OSLO NEXT

(From THE SUN (AMERICA)
August 12, 1977)

SAN DIEGO (AP)——Bing Crosby's path to recovery from a major back injury takes him on a working trip to Europe.

He will return to the stage in his first major endeavor since the injury when he travels to Oslo for a festival August 27.

As Mr. Crosby wandered the Torrey Pines golf layout in San Diego's fashionable La Jolla, he seems to wonder aloud whether at 73 he is up to the rigors of a return to the entertainment world.

"We'll just see how it goes," he said while playing a round recently. "If I can play as much golf as I do, I should be able to stand up for three hours on stage. I don't work very hard anyway. But I'd hate to have to do any dancing."

Mr. Crosby was injured March 17 in Pasadena, Calif., when he toppled 20 feet from a stage during the taping of a CBS special of the gala benefit marking his 50th anniversary in show business.

The injury, which Mr. Crosby admits has left his golf game ailing, has seemed to age the veteran trouper.

He keeps his golf cap on most of the time. Without it he is bald. His face is more drawn than usual.

"I'm doing pretty good now, but anything in the back is always slow to come around, " Mr. Crosby said of the injury he received in the accident.

Mr. Crosby said he was unaware that a section of the stage on which the orchestra had been sitting already had been lowered when he turned and walked into a void.

Mr. Crosby is hoping his health will allow some other European appearances after Oslo.

He hopes to spend some time in London doing a series of British television tapings and adds, "Then I'll possibly do some concerts in Germany and we'll come home at the end of September."

Mr. Crosby said he did a lot of thinking before agreeing to make the trip to Oslo. "For Oslo I'm taking a small jazz band and we'll go a day or two early because there will be jet-lag and I want to get a lot of rest before the show," he said.

Despite his recent injury, Mr. Crosby seems to retain the mellow philosophy that has been his trademark.

For instance, paramedics said he hummed a few songs from his stretcher in the ambulance that took him to the hospital.

Mr. Crosby these days is spending a great deal of time with his son, Nathaniel, 17, who is following in his dad's footsteps as an avid golfer.

As a tribute to Bing Crosby's 73rd birthday, Nathaniel took his father

to a San Francisco restaurant near their home. Mr. Crosby's wife, Kathryn, and their daughter, Mary Frances, were in Texas doing a stage show at the time.

Mr. Crosby probably will donate his services for the Oslo Festival he will attend.

Editor: To show just how confusing the position was it should be noted that when this story appeared - August 12 - Bing's Palladium shows as well as the provincial tour were being splashed in the newspapers here. Clearly Bing was then, at that date, considerably bothered as to the wisdom of undertaking his transatlantic tour - although once again Bing remarks that he doesn't work hard!

> And this reporter considers Bing is looking drawn after his accident. It is somewhat reassuring that five days after this report, another newspaper writer (whom you've read a back or so back) thought that at the Concord Pavilion Bing looked as if he had just stepped from one of his Road films....

But this was the first intimation of the trip to Oslo - and perhaps Germany. As Bing finishes at the Palladium on October 8 he and the family cannot possibly be back in the States by the end of September - as he says in the above report.

Be that as it may, the visit to Oslo certainly eventuated - and once again, we have a member there kind enough to send us a short reaction to the concert;:

STEFAN CARDNER, Polhemsgatan 19, S-112 30 STOCKHOLM writes for BING:

> Saturday was a day I never will forget.
>
> In a small village, with just about 4,000 people in the south of Norway, I sat and listened to Bing Crosby, while the rain did its best to drown me and the rest of the audience - 15,000 it was!
>
> I have during the years been a great Crosby admirer, but never thought there would be an opportunity to see him live.
>
> But finally the chance came, and it was thrilling to see how vital and fresh he was on stage - how smooth and relaxed he behaved when small error suddenly happened. A receiver (microphone)(speaker) suddenly started to make terrible noise - just as Bing started to sing a ballad. He stopped - looked at the orchestra, and said: "HEY, DO YOU HAVE BOB HOPE THERE SOMEWHERE...!?"
>
> Now I was so impressed of the old man, had to buy his London Palladium album, where the lovely CROSBY MEDLEY is included. It was this medley, with some changes, he sang in Momarken, Norway. I am now interested to get information about EVERYTHING concerning Bing and his music..

Editor; I'm certain nobody is going to complain about our "correspondent" section. Members everywhere to keep us in touch. Seems Bing stopped off in London en route to this Oslo date. Seems this went off well and no doubt was further encouragement for him to continue with the British tour.

We're especially grateful to Stefan, and Les Wilson , 568 Angela Str., Pleaston, California 90079, and Jos. Siebenhaar, 3221 Foster Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224 for their despatches from overseas. Britain, Oslo, Germany - and meanwhile our mates down under in Aussie-land are impatiently awaiting THEIR turn! I have a feeling it is coming. And what a welcome Bing will get THERE.

KEEPING TRACK

BERT BISHOP'S

looked-forward-to round up of Bing record issues; a trifle muted this time - perhaps the lull before the storm - tho' that's an absurdly inapt cliche to use about Bing issues....but you'll see what is meant:

A year or two ago we were accustomed to the occasional hiatus in new releases and issues as far as Crosby recordings were concerned; but of late the Bing scene has been so prolifically enlivened that any pause in the proceedings could only come as an anti-climax. Such, then, has been our summer in the UK - mostly dull overhead and a dearth of new releases. True the summer, irrespective of sunshine, was galvanised by the news - and consequent confusion - of Bing's imminent arrival - but I'm sure that aspect has been adequately dealt with elsewhere. But what of records, to keep to the point, to report upon? Tarry a while, for there may yet be something to keep you interested!

Remembering the good old days of the cinema, it always seemed to me that the best film was always 'coming next week'. Oh, those two-minute 'trailers' that guaranteed us that no matter what we had just sat through - and in evening cinema-going that would have been the "B" film - in seven days time (if we could wait that long) some uper colossal epic would have us rivetted to our seats! These columns cannot match the 'come-on" of a Hollywood trailer, but news of Bing's latest album to be released almost any time now (as I write) must surely suspend the popcorn munching for just a moment. It is just possible that somewhere in this edition of BING there will be a detailed review - its all a question of timing, naturally - but otherwise it will be the Christmas issue before KEEPING TRACK can do the honours, as has become expected, it seems. Meanwhile, basic facts:

BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES: UAS 30116 UK Stereo. Bing with the Pete Moore Orchestra; also available on cassette.

Our members are well aware that some of the tracks on this album have been 'in the can' for a fair old while, and I'm sure this eagerly-awaited LP will more than live up to our expectations as those who have obtained their albums by now will verify.

More up ahead news is the OCTOBER release of another long-delayed disc -

BING & CO MCA (Catalogue no. not yet known)

AND

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD - being the seasonal album of Bing's 1955 CBS broadcast in re-issue form. Previously released on LAT 8216 and MUP 329 in Britain, and a half-dozen different overseas albums. This record has, of course, become a Yuletide favourite. And rightly so.

There is one of those unfortunate errors on the previous page: it should be "page or so back" not what it does say in para 4.

Going back a couple of years to September 1975 these columns carried a review of the WORLD RECORDS 7-LP set THE VERY BEST OF BING. At that time sleeve note errors were corrected and alternate takes given where known. In recent weeks I have discovered what other members may have already found out for themselves,

and that is that we have another alternate "take" with the WR version of I'LL SEE YOU IN C-U-B-A; a 1946 song that is to be found on Side 2 of SM 292 sub-titled BING'S TRAVELS. The BING'S HOLLYWOOD, BING 10, sub-title BLUE SKIES features take -A, as does at least one other 78. It is to be assumed that the WORLD RECORD version is take -B - the discernible difference being in the last few bars.

DOUG.C.BLACK of 25 Egmont Terr., Hawthorn, S. Australia, 5062 writes:

The 2-LP set of the Palladium show hasn't been issued in Australia yet but Graham Reed let me have it and I am truly amazed at the excellence of the whole thing, especially the medley on Side 4; Bing's voice is stronger than on some of the original recordings - such as I'LL BE SEEING YOU..

BING CROSBY RADIO SHOW MCA-9301: 4-LP Set. Japan, Mono

This album set of four records is a direct equivalent of the BING CROSBY AND FRIENDS that was reviewed in the June 1977 issue of BING magazine. Equivalent in content that is - but far superior in presentation.

The records all bear the Victor-HMV symbol of dog and phonograph, having been published and produced by that company in Japan. The box is a stout, hinged, container and is very eye-catching in red with comprehensive details on front and rear, along with eight photographs of Bing through different ages in his career.

Apart from the records there is also a lavishly illustrated booklet, very tastefully produced. Among the photographs is one of Bing with his brothers, sisters, and mother taken when he was a very young blade indeed. Most of the pictures otherwise we have seen before, but there are one or two rarities to which the Japanese captions lend a further air of mystery.

Indeed, all the script is in Japanese and one can only guess at the usual potted biography by the accompanying photographs. However, there are six large pages devoted to English translations of the lyrics to every song featured on the four records; not only the lyrics but also the dialogue that accompanies them as taken from the various radio shows whence came the songs.

This very interesting set does not come cheaply; records are expensive items in Japan even before counting mailing costs. All in all it will cost between £16 and £20 to have them imported privately and individually.

The address of the manufacturers is Victor Musical Industries, Inc., Tokyo, Japan. Possibly there are some UK importers who could supply by arrangement. And as does sometimes happen, perhaps the set will be issued over here eventually.

Still with Japanese issues for a while, let me note here some previously released titles that may still be available - probably are, in fact. As these columns serve as additions and amendments to THE BING CROSBY LP-OGRAPHY any news of LPs which have 'escaped the net' in that publication will be welcomed. It was Mrs. Vera Roberts who drew my attention to the following omissions:

BING IN PARIS MCA-7079 Stereo Japan

SIBONEY - BING CROSBY MCA-7046 Japan

HOME ON THE RANGE - BING CROSBY MCA-7037 Japan

SWANEE RIVER MCA-7066 (M) Stereo Japan

THE GREATEST HITS OF BING CROSBY MCA-7017 Stereo Japan

And from the United States of America :

THAT CHRISTMAS SOUND OF MUSIC Capitol 6996, featuring STILENT NIGHT

BING CROSBY'S CHRISTMAS FOR TODAY'S ARMY 2-LP set, reissue of earlier material

EVERYONE HAS A SONG IN THEIR HEARTS CSP TA 1023 4-LP set, Bing content not known

Colin Pugh (Bristol) has drawn my attention to omissions from the LP-graphy also, some of which are currently available:

THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT United Artists L 35.568 Australia

MR. CROSBY & MR. MERCER MCA-Coral 7751 Australia.

AMERICA, I HEAR YOU SINGING Reprise F-2020 Australia (probably not available)

All three LPs are direct equivalents of UK and/or US releases.

Definitely available from Japan, as of August 1977, are the following LP titles with catalogue numbers:

BING & THE DIXIELAND BANDS MCA 3030

WHITE CHRISTMAS MCA 7151

SONGS I WISH I HAD SUNG MCA 3159

BEST OF BING CROSBY MCA 9232/3 (Equivalent to US 2-LP set)

SONGS EVERYBODY KNOWS MCA 3120 (with the Buddy Cole Trio)

BING CROSBY - GREATEST HITS MCA 7017

BING SINGS GERSHWIN MCA 3162

BING CROSBY GOLDEN DISCS VIM 10015

BING CROSBY (GREAT ENTERTAINER SERIES) MCA 9284/6 (3)

HOW THE WEST WAS WON RCA 5739-40

75 GREAT FILM PERFORMANCES Cat. no. not known; features some 8 film tracks by Bing

It should be added that all recent releases have also been released in Japan. Now I know that many of you are going to ask: WHERE DO WE GET THESE RECORDS? Short of popping down the High Street, Tokyo, that is....but as things stand at the moment, I have no personal knowledge of any one importer who can oblige on these. Certainly it is not too difficult to come by the WHITE CHRISTMAS LP so if its possible to import one of them, then others from the same stable should prove no problem - other than an assured sales outlet, of course. I can only suggest we badger HMV, Harlequin, Dave Carey et al and see if we cannot get some action on these lines. I'm sure there are many newer members who are after HOW THE WEST WAS WON and the GERSHWIN album. This latter, being a 12" version, should prove interesting to many other more longstanding members as well.

One final point: I must again impress that these records are going to come quite expensive. They are dear to begin with in Japan before carriage and import duty is tacked on; but if anyone finds a retail source ready to deal in several sets I'd be pleased to hear from them so that the good word may be spread.

HER GREATEST HITS - ORIGINAL SESSIONS 1952 (JUDY GARLAND) Musidisc 30CV-1353 France

(cont. over...

Though Bing is not mentioned on the sleeve nor the label he can be heard duetting with Miss Garland on HELLO, MA BABY, IN MY MERRY OLDSMOBILE, WALKING MY BABY BACK HOME and YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE.

This rates as another of those mistitled radio show albums from the same quarter as the Bing Crosby one; which is pirating at its worst.

IN LOVE AGAIN RCA RG-1001 2-LP set, US.

As these records are individually numbered 3 and 4 it must be assumed that the album is the second in the series. Bing is heard on one track only when he sings IMAGINATION, the 1947 commercial recording with John Scott Trotter's Orchestra.

GOLDEN RECORD MCA 4C 064-96564 (MAPS) Belgium (The sleeve no. is probably a misprint as the 'wax' shows it as 066-06564

SUNDAY, MONDAY OR ALWAYS.
SWINGING ON A STAR
TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LOO-RAL
I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU
DEAR HEARTS & GENTLE PEOPLE
NEW SAN ANTONIO ROSE
McNAMARA'S BAND
SWEET LEILANI
NOW IS THE HOUR
GALWAY BAY
PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA
DON'T FENCE ME IN
MEXICALI ROSE
YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

This set comes similarly packed as a double album, having a folding sleeve. The main cover picture being a recent full head photo of Bing in somewhat pensive mood. The background is a coarse weave hessian type impression. Inside there is another recent picture of the maestro, with the credits and contents given on the rear of the sleeve. With Bing still globe-trotting it is inevitable that these 'best of' albums are becoming quite prolific

THE ANDREWS SISTERS 'LIVE' Andros Records ANDS-4566 US.

1. One Meat Ball (Bing and Andrews Sisters)
   South America, Take it Away "
   You Don't Have to Know the Language "
   May the Good Lord Bless You and Keep You (Bing, A.S. and Nat King Cole)
2. Feudin' and Fightin' (Bing and the A.S.)
   Don't Fence me In "
   No non-Bing tracks listed here.

This comes packaged in the familiar Amalgamated Series style of plain white rear sleeve with the main artistes featured on the front. In this case, of course, the three famous sisters pictured at hip-length, with the title contents listed above their heads. Here again the sound fidelity is nothing to write home about.

A final piece of interesting information for this quarter is that the first record of the HRB 4-LP set (see also the Japanese BING CROSBY RADIO SHOW) has been released in Australia under the MCA label. Since it is indicated as being record No. 1 it might be assumed that the other three will be forthcoming. Time, then, that the UK counterparts got around to this desirable album.

Editor: I hope readers will note the country of origin of these records and also Bert's comments on their availability. So many people write to me - and presumably Bert - begging to get these records - where? We repeat, they are listed here for completeness, for letting members know in which parts of the world Bing's records are being issued. Obtaining some of them is difficult - and expensive.

I must confess, on a strictly personal basis, that the lure of "foreign" labels has never entrapped me. I cannot, for example, get excited over obtaining a Japanese or a German-issued album that merely contains all the tunes we have so many times on other labels (often thoroughly duplicated anyway). But I know some do, and its up to everyone as we keep repeating, to get what they like from Crosbyana. Even most of the now-prevalent pirated radio show albums we've had on tape for years and years. One thing is sure: it gets hellish expensive! Its expensive enough keeping up with newly-issued albums. Still, as I say, to each his own.

> But in connection with these Japanese issues, which never fail to puzzle me because Japanese music is so totally different from ours (and American). I mean, one wouldn't think that the rich baritone of Mr. C. would be all that popular there considering the light, rather tinkling, characteristics of Japanese music. And for this reason I was conjecturing whether the American forces resident in Japan might be the reason for such issues there. But no, that theory is knocked out of court if the script on the album sleeves is in Japanese!

BERT BISHOP, whose address you will find at the front of the magazine, also states:

Your price for HIGH TOR and LE BING. BING'S HOLLYWOOD for sale or exchange.

And if anyone wrote to KEVIN ANDERSON in the States in response to his advertisement in the March BING its because we very unfortunately gave an incorrect address. Kevin wants C4736 DEAR FRIEND and C1140 OL' MAN RIVER (both 78s) - Indian Col. 30158 - BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON, also Indian 30175 BUT NOT FOR ME; Dutch CBS 88142 (2 records); Swedish MCA COPS 7683/1-2 (two records) and New Zealand MATS 8206 ITS EASY TO REMEMBER. Will send ANYTHING in the States in exchange, including the new 4 LP-set BING & FRIENDS (radio programmes).

Kevin who is clearly one of those "foreign label" fans, lives at:

455, No. Reeder Avenue, Covina, California, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

And that's for sure! As I say, if you wrote to Kevin and had no reply, the fault is ours entirely. Our regrets.

HARRY FULMER, 201 King's Row Apts., Lindenwold, N.J. 08001, USA. must be one of the most prolific collectors in the world. A tremendous collection, including all the unissued Brunswicks, some of Decca and a few other labels, radio shows by the score. His wants are, however, intricate and involve "B" masters and such esoteric items. The dedicated discographers/collectors are earnestly invited to get in touch with Harry - with a view to mutual benefit.

To remind you: advertising here - TRADING POST - is quite free, but you are asked to keep them to within say six lines and to write them on a separate sheet of paper. This assists collation and goes a long way to ensuring insertion. Where yourrequirements ARE lengthy, it is suggested you ask for/offer lists for a SAE. We are glad to offer this trading service to members but on the other hand, we do not want BING to be reduced to an advertising catalogue. Agree?

Our very good friend DICK PEARSON of Egmonton, London had a most interesting - and illuminating letter from Bing way back in May -23rd to be precise. It is even more interesting in view of what has happened since....it appears next page.

BING'S LETTER TO DICK PEARSON:

Dear Dick, May 23, 1977

Thanks for your very kind note. I seem to be convalescing successfully, although it seems interminably slow, but the medics tell me that is standard procedure in this type of accident.

I don't know whether or not I'll be back on tour again, though - and I'm definitely afraid my golf is going to have to be put on the shelf unless some dramatic recovery takes place.

But then, I've had a great deal of golf - more than most men, and I've enjoyed every moment of it.

Glad you liked some of the recordings. There's another album I haven't heard yet that Ken Barnes did over in the States.

I was working to soundtracks which is not my favorite type of recording procedure. I'd rather work with a live band. With the sound tracks you're kind of locked in to tempos which may not be just quite what you want.

Yes, I read all of Dick Francis that he writes. I'll be glad to sign an album for you any time you want.

I suppose I'll get to England this spring, but I wouldn't guarantee it.

Nathaniel wants to play in the Boys Championship over there again, and several other Pro-Ams. He's been Captain of his High School golf team which has just won the championship and he was low medalist for the 12 matches, so he feels quite full of himself now!

Thanks again for your letter - Warmest regards to you and your family,

BING.

Well, a lot has happened since Bing wrote that - when he was clearly blue and facing just what the fall had done to him. You will note the ineffable sadness of paragraph three. The letter was written just about two months after the fall and while undoubtedly full recovery will be a long and tedious business it is obvious that Bing has made splendid progress.

The album Bing refers to is, of course, BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES....and we note that again Bing expresses his dislike of recording over an accompaniment already laid down. And his reason is cogent! "Locked into a tempo...." It is a particularly soul-less operation - and its not difficult to detect the albums on which Bing was forced into this method.

But, as ever, mention of his lad brings Bing back to a cheerful note! By the way, I believe Dick Francis is a coloured American comedian, is he not?

As we write Bing hasn't yet been seen on a British golf-course: but the weather may have something to do with that.

HISTORIC FLASHBACK

(Courtesey of LES STREET, Cardiff).

It is quite clear that a misconception - slight - has crept into affairs this last couple of years. Bing himself laid the foundation. He refers to his "50 years in show business....." when starting off his stage performances. Or he did. Dating it from 1926 naturally. But the truth is that it was in October of that year that he cut his first record! Bing left Spokane and set off in the jalopy with Al Rinker long before that and its true to say that he was in the business, in a smallish way, quite a while before he cut that record....be that as it may, its only a small point perhaps.

But because we are certain it will interest most readers - and certainly the younger ones - we are presenting an article that appeared in the MELODY MAKER of April 11, 1953, with acknowledgements to that journal. Dates are not lacking in interest here; in 1953 - which is almost 25 years ago, Bing had been a world-star for almost a similar period.

'BEAT' SCRIBE DISCOVERS A VINTAGE CROSBY.

BING CROSBY discophiles, who have been lying dormant these past few years can now don their rubber gloves for a real junkshopping junket.

The quest? A vintage Crosby that even the experts have missed.

According to George Hoefer, Hot Box columnist of DOWN BEAT magazine, Bing's very first recording has been found and verified. It's title is I'VE GOT THE GIRL by Don Clark and his Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel Orchestra, and not Paul Whiteman's WISTFUL AND BLUE as listed by discographers Mello and McBride in their 100-page CROSBY ON RECORD.

Hoefer reveals that Bing's brother, Larry, informed the discographers that Bing's first record wasn't listed. Bing recalled making a disc with a Don Baker orchestra on Columbia before the WISTFUL AND BLUE Crosby-Al Rinker duet was cut with Whiteman on December 22, 1926.

For two years, Mello and McBride made an unavailing search for the record. Then about a month ago, a San Francisco collector located a Don Clark recording of I'VE GOT THE GIRL with vocal refrain.

"Sure enough," writes Hoefner, "Bing and Alton Rinker, the late Mildred Bailey's brother, were doing a duet." The duettists names, however, are not shewn on the disc, which is black label Columbia 824D.

According to Mello, the disc must have been made in October 1926: Hoefer considers the date should be June.

Brian Rust, discographical 'brain' of the BBC Gramophone Library told the MM: "Mello's date is the right one. I recall I'VE GOT THE GIRL, but I did not realise that the vocal was taken by Crosby and Rinker. The record was issued here as by the Charleston Serenaders on Columbia black label 4310 'with vocal chorus'.

'The coupling, which came from the same session, was IDOLIZING.

Also from the same session, and released back to back in the States - but not here - were WHEN YOU WALTZ WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE and JUST ONE LITTLE KISS on Columbia 790D.

The matrix numbers are: GIRL 142785, IDOLIZING 142784, LOVE 142783 and KISS 142782."

Editor: It may be imagined that this was a stone of some magnitude to be thrown into the pool and caused a sensation in Crosby circles. Well, those are the details to bear in mind when you visit a junk-shop - and even at this late date, they should not be passed by. Who knows - perhaps copies can still be found. It would be a gem well-worth finding.

> There's one little thing that bothers me: how did ANYONE recognise Bing and Al on this record? I've listened to it scores of times - and if I hadn't been aware of all the fuss about it I could never, NEVER, have recognised the duettists. Bing himself has been heard to remark that, on this record, they sound like a couple of chipmunks! I believe, however, Bing did dredge his memory and confirm that he and Al did in fact sing this duet with the Don Clark outfit.

All other Crosby early recordings bear some trace of the celebrated baritone, even ooohing and aaahing and such - but I'VE GOT THE GIRL sounds completely anonymous, and typical of the time. Still, it has been authenticated and all the celebrations of 50 years have been based on this epic discovery.

KEN JONES, 79 Albion Rd., Port Talbot, West Glam. Writes: Whilst on a flying visit to the home of Ken Barnes in Benfleet recently he played his copy of the next LP of Bing's to be released in September. I feel nobody is going to be disappointed in ANY way with this production. On Ken's lounge wall Bing's silver record of THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT holds a very prominent position; also on display, alongside, was Ken's Slim Whitman gold record as well as many signed photographs of the stars - Bing, Fred Astaire, Johnny Mercer, Gene Kelly, Peggy Lee and others.

BOB MACHLISS, 10 Devon St., Caulfield, Victoria, Australia 3161: My big news is that I have just formed a Crosby Society down here. Its official title is THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY (the Australian State, not the late Queen!) and we already have 60 members. The official objectives of the Society are (1) to increase public awareness and understanding of the contribution of Bing Crosby to popular music and (2) to provide the opportunity for collectors and admirers of Bing Crosby to meet at regular intervals for the purpose of discussion and mutual enjoyment of the works of this great artist.

The impetus behind starting a society came from the response I'd been receiving from my monthly hour-long radio show THE CROSBY COLLECTOR. Quite a number of people started ringing up asking if there was a Crosby Society...and that got me thinking.

Editor: Delighted to hear of Bob's new enterprise Down Under - and I've assured Bob we'd be very happy to have them associated with us, the ICC. In this way Bob's members will be able to obtain our publications which will be a gesture of goodwill - and of considerable benefit to those members. It really is something in these exciting days of Crosbyana (days that no one dreamed would happen) to learn of these new societies and projects coming into being. And according to Rosie Clooney - who arrived in London as I write, Sept. 16 - Bing and the company ARE going to Australia.....

THE PAGES FOLLOWING:

.....opposite is the condensed "poster" designed by TONY BULMER, Guisborough, Cleveland referred to elsewhere in this issue. Whether or not it is wise to reproduce it thus remains to be seen. It gives no true idea of the finished product, which is black on pale blue - and most effective. It is an original artistic impression by Tony.

On the following page there is a "local paper" story strongly featuring our enthusiastic member, PHIL CLARKE of Stamshaw, Portsmouth - and it is, of course quite self-explanatory. It is nice to learn that wife Marjorie fully shares Phil's consuming interest.

Also on that page are just two of the many newspaper items which seem to sum up the confusion that arose - and to an extent continues - as we write. However, no doubt it is all working out happily. At least, we hope so.

Thirdly we reproduce the publicity for Bing's show - extensively reviewed in this issue - at the Concord Pavilion in the States. This is the show, it would seem, that finally swayed Bing's decision to go ahead with his European tour plans. The advertisement is similar to those that appeared here in certain papers, with the necessary amendments. And indeed, this picture typically illustrates an observation we made regarding Bing's last-year Palladium appearances: that he doesn't find it at all necessary to hold a microphone so close as to be in danger of swallowing it! - which is the unsightly method of most other popular singers. In fact, we feel that if the Concord Pavilion had been an ordinary theatre and not semi-outdoors Bing would have opted to have carried on regardless when the sound system broke down instead of waiting for it to be repaired!

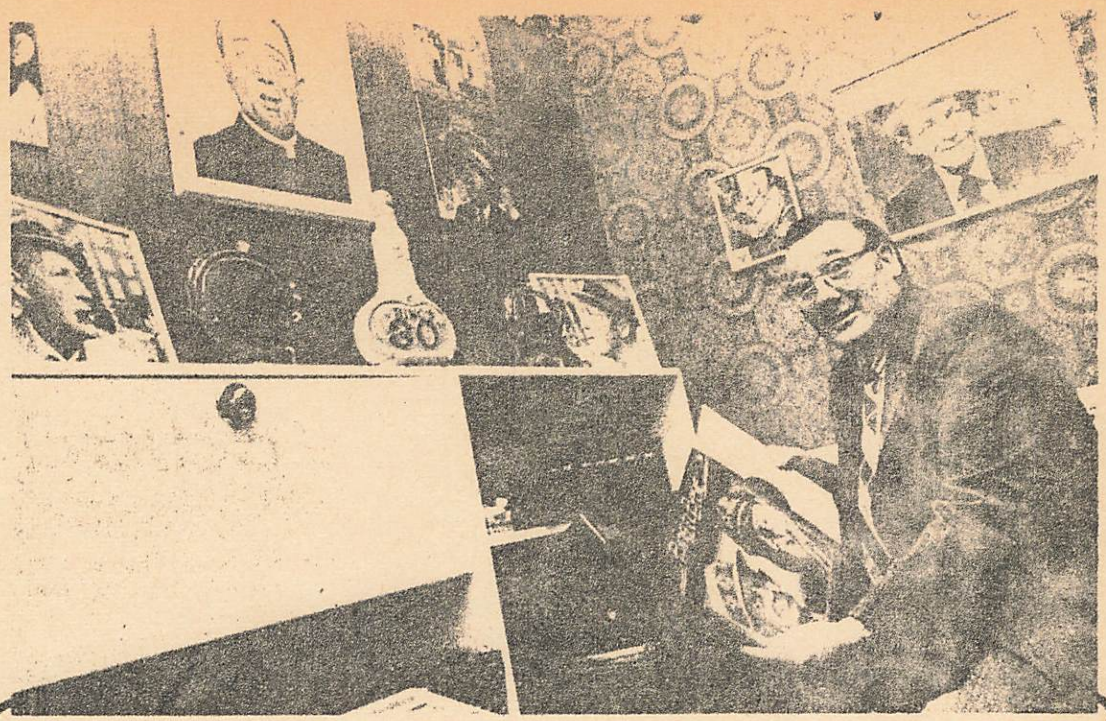
We must offer a word of apology for the "mucky" state of the back of this third picture. It is almost inevitable, alas, when efforts are made to reproduce intensely black images. Its nice to see, though.

BING ON THE BOX - Normally one of Bert Bishop's anticipated features is, this time, virtually non-existent - the feature wherein Bert mulls over TV and radio programmes featuring Bing. There have, of course, been various Crosby films mainly around the regions - ROAD TO RIO, HIGH SOCIETY, BELLS OF ST. MARYS and one not seen too often, MAN ON FIRE. And we've caught references to Bing in shows &c.

One member has reported that TERRY WOGAN appears to be a great Bing fan - and he pointedly played a Crosby record immediately after reference to a certain pop star who, sadly, died in the now usual somewhat bizarre circumstances after living the life of a hermit. One might well ask how these modern "superstars" CANNOT stand the pressures they bemoan - but this isn't the place, no doubt - except to point out that the whole world knows a really super-super-star who, while certainly subject to the normal stresses and strains of living, has never found his unique career a burden. But we feel it is no secret: just be yourself and keep things in perspective. If Bing Crosby can do it surely considerably lesser fry might? Bing travels the world - minus bodyguard, public relations men, fixers, arrangers. Just his fine family. And as far as we know, that's the way he's always lived.

There have, of course, been the usual quota of Bing records on the air-waves - and no doubt the next few months will give Bert plenty for his B.B.B.B. (see last issue!)

BING



Enthusiasm is a room full of Bing

Ardent Bing Crosby fan Mr. Philip Clarke (51), of Stamshaw, is delighted that his hero is on the Road to the South.

For Mr. Clarke (above), who has devoted a room in his Waldon Road Home to Bing souvenirs, will be giving the "old groaner" a special gift after his concert at Southampton's Gaumont Theatre.

"I have had a painting done from a photograph of Bing and I will be handing it to him," said Mr. Clarke. "It was quite costly but I think he is worth it."

Stowed away in Mr. Clarke' "Bing room" are 4,000 recordings of the 76-year-old star, and tapes and films he has made. "I have been a fan for 35 years, and have seen all his films," said Mr. Clarke, whose wife, Marjorie shares his passion for Crosby.

The Southampton concert precedes a run at the Palladium, and Mr. Clarke has tickets for the first and last London performances.

He predicts a packed house at the Gaumont. "There are quite a lot of International Crosby Circle members in this area," he said. "If anything, Bing seems to be increasing in popularity. A lot of his new fans are in the 20 to 30 age group."

Equally as enthusiastic about Crosby's visit to this country is Isle of Wight fan Mr. Leslie Gaylor (56), of Medina Avenue, Newport, who has met his idol several times. He, too, will be attending the Southampton and London concerts.

"Bing will be recording his Christmas show in London, too, and I hope to see some of the recording sessions," said Mr. Gaylor.

The show at the Gaumont on September 16 will also feature Crosby's wife, former film star Kathy Grant, and Rosemary Clooney.

0111-1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1977

Bing: I can't make London

BING CROSBY has called off his planned visit to Britain next month for a season at the London Palladium and a nationwide tour.

The 73-year-old singer revealed his cancellation plans, which will disappoint thousands, in a letter to a fan in Glasgow.

The announcement astonished organisers and concert hall owners, who were still selling tickets.

In his letter to Mr. James Dineen, of Maryhill, Scotland, Bing says: "A series of circumstances has arisen forcing me to scrub the English provincial tour and the engagment at the Palladium in September.

"I have delayed this disclosure as long as possible but now it seems it is not to be."

The star apologised for trouble caused by the decision.

His secretary said from Los Angeles: "Bing is having problems with a slipped disc

At the Palladium, staff were surprised by the news.

One said: "As far as we know, he is still coming. We haven't been told it is off."

Bing's London season was due to open on September 26.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1977—5

BING CROSBY: "It looks a bit tough."

Bing aims for a full UK tour

BING CROSBY flew into Heathrow today in fighting mood and announced that despite his injured back he still might make his British provincial tour.

At the end of his flight from San Francisco, the 73-year-old singer declared: "Boy, I would love to do the whole tour but it looks a bit tough.

"The back is so bad that I can't even play a round of golf. I have to walk round with a four-iron and a putter and I can only manage nine holes.

"I told the promoters two months ago I couldn't manage the complete tour planned for Britain. But the pain is a day-to-day thing, and I may still be able to make it."

Film

He flew in with his son Harry, aged 19. His wife, Kathy, and their two other children arrive at the weekend.

He will spend only one day in London, then go to Oslo for a TV show. He will return to London for two weeks at the Palladium.

Bing added: "I'm planning to make a film with Bob Hope but we haven't got the right script yet. Apart from the back—I ruptured a disc falling into a stage pit six months ago—I am feeling just fine."

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 8PM

A Concord Summer Festival Encore...

BING CROSBY

with

HARRY CROSBY

and

MARY FRANCES CROSBY

JOEY BUSHKIN JAZZ QUARTET

WITH

RAY BROWN, JAKE HANNA, JOHNNY SMITH

DAVE FRISHBERG FIVE

BING IS BACK!

Concord Pavilion

SWOP SHOP

This is the feature wherein members are cordially invited to further their Crosbyana interests in the way of records, tapes, photographs, books, etc. etc. Advertising is completely free but it is of great assistance, as well as ensuring insertion, if all items intended for this feature are written on a separate sheet of paper when writing. One further point: the Editor relies entirely on the integrity of member-advertisers in describing the condition &c. of their offers. It is up to members to satisfy themselves that they have a fair deal and the Editor can take no responsibility whatever in any transactions that ensue.

E.W.REYNOLDS, Marhaba, Burnt Heath, Hilton, Derby wants to know where he can get a cassette version of the radio series (THE BING CROSBY STORY) which ran for 14 1-hour weekly shows? BBC narrated by Douglas Fairbanks. Also, he is keen to acquire any f Bing's films that are available on 8mm sound versions. Any help greatly appreciated.

MIKE SLIPMAN, 153 Francklyn Gardens, Edgware, Midd'x: Few copies left of SPOKANE and TOTEM LPs with Bing, Al Jolson, Judy Garland. Also one copy remaining of Biograph Records entitled RARE BING as well as quite a few other Bing albums for sale. SAE please.

JOHN JOYCE, 5 Shelley Rd., Short Heath, Willenhall, West Midlands: Does anyone have a taping (does it exist?) of the medley Bing sang on the opening night at the Palladium last year? To sell me, or exchange for other Bing material. There were several songs on the opening performance not used on other nights, i.e. TEMPTATION, THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC, etc. etc. And if I remember rightly Bing sang just a few bars of more songs on that particular night.

> Editor: I must confess this surprises me. I wasn't at the opening alas, and while it seems that Bing did some more off-the-cuff bars I would be surprised if the medley, fully arranged by Joe Bushkin, was varied. Still, I'm open to correction. More important, could a tape exist of that first night?)

DERRICK ANDERSON, 51 West Ave., Wombwell, Barnsley, S. Yorks S73 8QG: I will swap the following for Bing LPs: 27 back nos. of JAZZ JOURNAL from Oct '69 to March '71, missing Sept 70 and Feb '71 from Oct '74 to Aug '75. Two Volumes of Jazz Directory, Vol 2 CD Vol 4, GH by Albert McCarthy and Dave Carey. What have you?

JOHN BASSETT, "Bingville", 15 Oast Way, Rochford, Essex, SS4 2RZ: For Sale - The Bing LP from the 2-LP set JOHN McCORMACK IN OPERA AND SONG (ASCO) N- condition in plain white cardboard sleeve. Extremely rare - £25. First come, first served.

NEIL O'BRIEN, 4 Wychbury St., Spreydon, Christchurch 2, New Zealand: Available for trade - all brand new except the first:

1. WHITE CHRISTMAS LAT 8044
2. BING CROSBY & FRIENDS Vol 1 only HRB Music Co.
3. EASY TO REMEMBER NZ release.
4. HOLIDAY IN EUROPE LAT 8505
5. BING CROSBY SINGS LAT 8281
6. SHILLELAGHS & SHAMROCKS LAT 8106

WANTS: among others THE SUMMIT R 5031; AN AXE, AN APPLE & A BUCKSKIN JACKET A 298:21 HOW THE WEST WAS WON RD 27196/7; FRANK SINATRA & BING SM 3612; GERALDINE DON'T FIGHT

THE FEELING LD 1001. - Editor: A chance to make a really long-distance deal!

W.H.Ewert, Timber Stones, 35 Chislehurst Rd., Bickley, Kent: Bing and Al TOTEM 1016, Dick Powell and Bing WIMP RECORDS £7.50p incl. postage.

HARRY MARRS, 15 Eastbourne Rd., Darlington, Co. Durham: Wants to buy recordings of LEE WILEY. Lee's records, he writes, are very hard to come by. I have her albums of Richard Rodgers - Arlen - Gershwin and Porter songs and odd tracks on jazz LPs and anthologies but the bulk of her recordings elude me.

Editor: We trust Harry has I STILL SUITS ME by Lee duetting with a promising singer named B... C..... - recorded 17.3.47 with Victor Young directing!)

RICHARD PEARSON, 109 N. Wayne Str., #5, Arlington, VA. 22201, USA would like to buy back issues of BING or trade cassettes for them.

JOHN KIRBY, RR#1, Box 10, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, BOS 1A0, CANADA: Wants MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY: JACK B. NIMBLE: ICHABOD (all any issue); BLUE HAWAII DECCA DL8269: GUYS AND DOLLS REPRISE FS 2016: DAY DREAMING (CORAL): EARLY 30'S VOL 1 (A. OF H.) CHRISTMAS STAR B/J 202: the EP HMV 7EG8405, and the UA SINGLE OF HEATWAVE UP 36140. FOR DISPOSAL: BUT BEAUTIFUL (DECCA DL4260): ZING A LITTLE ZONG DECCA DL4263: ANYTHING GOES (DECCA DL 4264): SHILLELAGHS & SHAMROCKS DECCA DE 8207: BING CROSBY SINGS VOCALION VL3603: SHE LOVES ME NOT TOTEM LP 1004: BING AND AL TOTEM LP 1007: BING, BOB & JUDY TOTEM LP1009: ON THE AIR VOL 2 TOTEM LP 1022: DICK TRACY IN B FLAT -SCARCE RARITIES SR 5504: FRANK SINATRA AND BING CROSBY JOKER SM3612: A COUPLE OF SONG & DANCE MEN UAS29888 and SOUTHERN MEMOIR LONDON SHU 8480. All, save VL 3903 in Excellent to Mint condition. I'll offer the later nine disposal items at a "2 for 1" rate (LPs only).

ROY BISSELL, 26 Charlotte Rd., Wednesbury, WS10 7NE, W. MIDLANDS has the following LPs for exchange: HOLIDAY IN EUROPE, BING(HOLLYWOOD) 11, 13 and 15; 101 GREAT SONGS: 33 GREAT SONGS (AUSTRALIAN) WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING, RARE STYLE: BELOVED HYMNS. His "wants": BING(HOLLYWOOD) 7 and 9; LA 8724 COUNTRY STYLE: LA 8674 BING SINGS THE HITS: LA8514 STARDUST, LA 8571 BING SINGS STEPHEN FOSTER: LA 8684 YOURS IS MY HEART ALONE: LAT 8331 IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN: GLP 351 ALI BABA & 40 THIVES: RD 27032 BING WITH A BEAT: LAT 8281 BING CROSBY SINGS: LAT 8253 TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL: DL 8687 AROUND THE WORLD WITH BING: NPL 28015 PEPE; ROBIN AND THE 7 HOODS R2021, and THE SUMMIT R5031.

MISS KAREN MACKLEN, 2 The Avenue, Taunton, Somerset wants the following issues of CROSBY COLLECTOR - VOL 1 issue 2; Vol 3 issue 13; Vol 4 issue 10; Vol 5 issues 2 to 11 omitting 7; Vol 6 issue 1; 2 and 3. Reasonable price paid.

(Editor: I've had to tell dear Karen that if only she could call she could have all these and more.....)

A. JENKINS, 15 Bramley Crescent, Sholing, Southampton SO2 9LN requires in mint condition only BING'S HOLLYWOOD NO 1 (EASY TO REMEMBER) AND 2 (PENNIES FROM HEAVEN-) and BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD 1930-34, 2LP-set. Good price paid.

JOHN BYRON, Tone Str., Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland wants on record or tape: A CHRISTMAS SING AROUND THE WORLD: THE SMALL ONE: JOIN BING AND SINGALONG: 101 GREAT SONGS PTS 1 and 11, and ON THE HAPPY SIDE. Also, anything of STEVE CONWAY other than the LP still available.

Editor: John need be patient for only a little longer for a CHRISTMAS SING WITH BING AROUND THE WORLD is being reissued shortly by EMI/MCA; indeed, MCA'S reissue of this Christmas album can still be obtained in some well-stocked shops. The other albums are, of course, a different kettle of fish - except on tape. The Steve Conway album John refers to is the EMI "ONE-UP" BEST OF STEVE CONWAY, being a reissue of an Encore album issued some years ago. And a nice album, too - Steve was one of the best of the British vocalists in the late 40's and 50's.

MRS. J. COATES, 4 Somerset Rd., Droylsden, Lancs is very anxious to obtain BING IN PARIS (Ace of Hearts) and TRAVELLIN' TWO-BEAT (Capitol) tho' no doubt WORLD RECORD CLUB'S DIXIELAND ROUND THE WORLD will do top as its the same album.

TERRY WARDROPE, "Shalom", 44 Melloch Cres., Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, FK13 6QJ; Being a new Bing collector I am interested in purchasing Bing records and/or tapes if anyone has anything for disposal at reasonable prices. (I have a family and a mortgage to support). Details appreciated.

Editor: We like a sense of humour, even in advertisements! All those members who have been asking about taping facilities are referred to the announcements in READERS LETTERS elsewhere in this issue.

It is possible that not all readers appreciate the meaning of DOLBY SYSTEM when referred to in recording matters; it is an invention by one of that name which obviates most surface and other noise and results in much higher-quality tapes. The system is now being incorporated, under license, in most cassette recorders today - apart from the small portables.

CARLOS UBACH, Tetuan 28, Sabadell, Barcelona, SPAIN: Wants to exchange the following 10" for 12-inch albums: (all Decca) DL 5371 Country Style; DL 5105 Blue of the Night; DL 5063 Don't Fence Me In; DL 5100 From Broadway Shows; DL 5310 WAY BACK HOME; DL 5272 Top o' the Morning; DL 527- The Emperor Waltz; DL 5042 Blue Skies; DL 5343 Down Memory Lane Vol 2; DL 5107 Cowboy Songs Vol 1; DL 5351 Beloved Hymns; DL 5126 Stardust; DL 5037 St. Patick's Day Parade. Will accept best offers otherwise.

(I can guarantee Carlos, mi bueno amigo a good response to this offer of the hard-to-find 10" albums, coveted by collectors)

THE BING CROSBY PHOTO CLUB: TAPES EXCLUSIVE: an BING PICTORIAL! + + + + + + +

What can only be described as a mass of literature if flying around promoting the above ventures by FRANK MURPHY, 32 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear; Sam Warman and Johnny Jones. And in this literature it says:

"The sole aim of this non-profit-making organisation is the distribution internationally of many thousands of photos of the peerless Bing, many from private sources...."

More importantly, perhaps, 2-hour cassette tapes of Bing material are also being currently issued. Frank states that members of the ICC do NOT have to pay the £2.50p per year which brings BING PICTORIAL four times a year on the 15 August, November, February and May, but they can receive the special offers of photographs and cassettes by sending 40p (one dollar) to Frank at the address given for details/lists of the offers. It is understood there are no less than 15 C-120 cassettes available offering 30 hours playing time of Crosby material and including other artists. No matter how you feel about collecting photographs the cassettes appear a considerable offer for they contain Kraft Music Hall material and other broadcast items. The charge of £2.50 includes postage. One imagines a heavy demand!

FRANK HATWELL, 240 Gillott Rd., Birmingham 16 has two copies of last year's Palladium programme/brochure: £3 post paid.

BING ties (dark blue with the "silhouette" of Bing motif) can be obtained from

RON BAXTER,
THE BADGE CENTRE,
ROPERGATE,
PONTEFRACT, YORKS. Price £1.50 post paid.

And here we can interpolate a word - an encouraging word! - for the ladies who are keen to have a Bing broach; when current pressures ease we hope to pursue this project with speed and enthusiasm.

THE LP-OGRAPHY

There was little or no doubt that the 162-page discography of Bing's LPs would be received with delight and enthusiasm. And that's how it has indeed turned out. We are proud of this new addition to ICC publications and the warm tributes to the compilers - BERT BISHOP, JOHN BASSETT, KEN GRAY (US), RON DANIELS (AUSTRALIA) and COLIN PURGH - are greatly appreciated. And those who have had a kind word for he who did the mundane chore of printing it are valued! We keenly await the verdict of Bing himself - who as we told you, wrote the introduction - for Arthur Holmes of Edgware is certain he will consider it "quite a tome...!"

And it is. And indications are that it will soon become a collectors' item to be consulted and browsed through for years to come. As I write I am not certain whether or not the compilers intend to issue up-dating sheets thro'BING - this magazine. If not, it will be up to members themselves to add to it as necessary to ensure its complete topicality.

Some have asked why the Palladium double-album was not included. The truth is that while some of the up-to-date albums WERE included, the volume was intended to cover the years from the first issue of LPs to 1975. In a compilation of this nature, with its various cross-references and indices, a line has to be drawn at which you cannot include further entries without upsetting the whole pattern. And as we also recorded in the discography itself, its wholly due to the wonderful fact that Bing continues to record his wonderful voice for posterity, that every discography of Bing so far published has almost immediately been - technically - out of date! But it won't be too difficult now to keep it flowing and up-to-date.

Just one word of apology: some of the first issues, due to the zeal of a couple of unofficial, unpaid, helpers, were posted not safely secured. Indeed, before we had decided on the method. It is hoped this will not have proved too inconvenient and that the recipients found a way to safely bind them. Subsequent issues were securely bound. It is true - as some members suggested - it could have been sewn, leather-bound, spiral-bound, stiff-covered and with all sorts of refinements IF members in the main (as opposed to the affluent exceptions) were prepared to pay upwards of £5 a copy! The prime idea was to make it a boon and a bargain at a reasonable price for ICC members. We succeeeded seems to be the general opinion.

Surprisingly it seems that many members who most wanted this project haven't yet sent for their copies. This may be due to the fact that they have been on holiday, ill, or forgetful for some other reason. This will serve as a reminder that the LPography is available from The Editor/Secretary, REG BRISTO, at £2.50post paid.

Sufficient copies have, of course, been put aside for the overseas members whose requests obviously take longer to reach us. And in this connection, we neglected to say when announcing publication of the LP-ography in the last issue that for six dollars, US and Canadian members can have their copies air-mailed to them. For £3.50 (sterling) it can be air-mailed to Australia/New Zealand; European members can receive it also by air-mail for £3 sterling.

Should it eventuate that home members do NOT take up their chance to acquire this volume it will eventually be possible for those members who want a second copy - a "working copy"- to be accommodated. It appears from letters received that those members would like a copy they can mark, tick, and write notes in! - while keeping a copy for "Sunday best".

The next project scheduled is the reprint and updating of the MINI-DISCOGRAPHY; it is hoped to embark upon this in the not too distant future.

To all those seemingly insatiable members who want the LPography, the Mini-discography, THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY, the film book ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD, and the A TO Z OF BING CROSBY - we can only plead for tolerance - and patience! Some members throw in, probably for good measure, the thought that WE in the ICC are the people to write the definitive biography of Bing. Perhaps we are at that....but have a heart!

THE BING POSTER

For the trendy ones among us the "poster" idea of TONY BULMER is proving a big success, and quite a few homes, stair-landings and "dens" must now be that much more decorative. As announced in the previous issue of BING, Tony, who is employed in the art business, had the idea of designing and producing a poster for Bing people. Posters are one of the "in" things (they tell me!) in the pop world...but why shouldn't we have one?

It is black on a pale blue background and measures 2ft x 17 ins - and if all goes well a "miniature" of it is reproduced on the following page. Tony aimed at an artistic impression of Bing, rather than merely slavishly copying a photograph. And I must confess that when I first saw Tony's effort I must have been less than enthusiastic to poor Tony! I felt it may have turned out a little surrealistic - not the near-likeness/photograph of Bing that perhaps most people, especially the ladies, would want.

I'm delighted to say that since having the finished article, I'm completely converted. Tony has produced a most effective and striking poster which is a compelling adornment to any niche in the home of a Crosby enthusiast. The price is £1.98p post paid, BUT, pensioners on our list are invited to obtain it at half-price, e.g. 99p. Its probably sufficient to say that many members have asked for a second poster on receiving the one they ordered. They may be obtained from TONY BULMER, 69 Dorset Road, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS 14 7EW. We're glad Tony hit on this decorative idea.

It is pleasing, too, that some of our members have taken advantage of the offer of the LPography at £1. The offer still applies of course - to pensioners, people sick or otherwise inconvenienced. And we need hardly add, such transactions are completely confidential and absolutely no embarrassment is occasioned.

So, get your LPographies and your posters while they are available.....

LETTERS

from members are undeniably a popular feature with other members. Understandably so, and we are happy to present a generous selection in this issue.

As was to be expected, the tragic loss of BOB ROBERTS came as a big shock to many and this sad event took pride of place in correspondence. Further tributes to Bob came in from near and far....

ARTHUR WARING (and his friends) 32 Stainton Drive, Middleton, Lancs:

Although we never had the ocasion to really get to know Bob Roberts we were aware of him because of the Guinness Book of Records before we had the pleasure of swapping words with you and becoming proud members of the ICC. So we feel we really did know him. He must have had tremendous character to have accepted impending death so bravely. We will respect his memory always, and have said a special prayer that his widow may face the future with fortitude. No doubt she will have many friends in and out of the Circle, as well as her family, to comfort her.

FRANK WILGAUS, 138 Blundell Avenue, Cleethorpes, S. Humberside, DN35 7RJ:

I was very upset to hear about Bob. I visited him once, out of the blue, and though it was his dinner hour he insisted on showing me his den and playing me a few I couldn't wait to hear. He will be sadly missed indeed. He supplied me with reams of tape and it was my intention to obtain from him the remaining 100-odd tracks I need to complete my collection of commercially-recorded songs. Without him and his generously given time and effort our circle is sadly diminished.

JACK SOUTHER, 2011-44th AVEN. San Francisco, Cal. 94116, U.S.A.:

I thought the treatment of the passing of Bob Roberts most tasteful; my comments would be redundant. I knew Bob only by mail for the past 18 years and its my deep regret that we never had the opportunity to meet. I'll miss his warm and friendly letters. A first rate person; its difficult to accept the fact that he's gone. He was one of life's better experiences.

MASTER DAVID WARD, 51 St. Andrews St., Lincon, Lincs:

Thank you for publishing my advert. for the Palladium programme. I received quick replies - from Mrs. Vera Roberts, sending me the programme free of charge, and the next day from Mr. Edward Hale, of Islingtonn who said he would try and get me one from the Palladium and if he failed would have photo-copied his own free of charge. I have, of course, thanked both these kind people but I think it would be a nice gesture if I also thanked them in the pages of Bing. I would be very grateful if you could do this.....

Editor: Most happy to oblige; for if young David hadn't told us, Edward and Vera wouldn't have. And we love to know of these things. Imagine in her weight of sorrow Vera found time to please young David Ward..... and Edward Hale's effort was typical Crosbyana...David, you may recall, is very young and was unable to get to the Palladium last year. He offered a fair price for the very handsome programme that was produced for Bing's first epic shows in London.

Reg Bristo,
7, Greenmeadow Close,
CWMBRAN,
Gwent, NP4 3NR.

G.W.Hill, 2 Hazeldene Avenue, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland:

I am very much upset to read that Bob Roberts' collection of records &c. may be sold to someone outside the ICC or split up to members of ICC. Either way, it is very bad news for the ICC as a whole. If this happens how will old - and especially, new - members be able to obtain at least a tape recording of many of Bing's records which we all know will never be issued again. If the ICC itself made a bid for the collection I am sure Mrs. Roberts would agree to let it have first chance. If Bing himself were aware of the situation I'm sure he would help to keep the collection with ICC. We must act before it is too late. Another point, of course, is that if the ICC had the collection who would do the taping for members? Perhaps I could help in this matter - if I had the records....

Editor: A very laudable, as well as commonsense, suggestion. But Mr. Hill's last question only poses a small part of the problems we face. Certainly the idea occurred to us - but the problems appeared insuperable. Firstly, the collection is worth a very, very big sum and the arrangements to raise that sum would have taken a considerable time. And we know that Vera does not wish the matter to be unduly protracted. One of the reasons being that she is very likely to go to the States where she has relatives.

Then, who could HOUSE the collection? Who would be the curator, as it were? Who could take the RESPONSIBILITY, seeing that we are all "amateurs"? And, to come to Mr. Hill's final, yet very pertinent point, who would then undertake the taping? If the collection had been co-operatively owned - as it would have to have been - all sorts of legal requirements would have to be met - and extensive insurance undertaken. With many people having a definite monetary interest in it, they would have to have access to it - naturally. Thus it will be appreciated that the project would need full-time workers, curators, tapists, and indeed, guardians.

Which all goes to show why Bob Roberts and his life-time's collection were unique for Bob was able to undertake all these things when it was his collection. The problems multiply alarmingly, as indicated, with Bob's passing.

Nevertheless, it has been one of the facilities, or advantages, of the ICC that members can read obtain tapings of material that they cannot otherwise get on record. To replace Bob is impossible, but happily, there are a number of members who while not possessing the comprehensive array of material that Bob had, nevertheless do have considerable collections. Thus, it will take many to replace Bob.

Such members have stepped into the breach and offered their services to the extent that their facilities will permit. We are grateful for their offers and their names and addresses appear below. Should other members like to offer their services in this way we will be happy to regularly print a list of names to whom members may apply for their taping requirements. I should add that I myself would dearly love to enter this field but time is the eternal enemy and with the best will in the world, and a keen desire to further the aims of all members, I just could not guarantee to find the time.

Meanwhile, the following members may be contacted - please enclose a stamped addressed envelope when writing to them for, as we all know, postal charges are a drain on ALL projects these days:

GEORGE HARWOOD, 5 Glebe Rd., Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE18 9DS:

offers reel-to-reel, 3¾ ips on either 5¾" or 7" spools - 1200 ft £4.00, 1800ft £6.00 inclusive of postage and packing. Cassettes: C60 £2.50, C90 £3.75 (Dolby or non-Dolby). Reel tapes will be 4-track unless otherwise stipulated. "I don't think I can be fairer bearing in mind the high cost of tape, post and packing."

(Cont. over...

FRANK WILGAUS, 138 Blundell Avenue, Cleethorpes, S. Humberside, DN35 7PJ:

Has an extensive collection of LPs, 78s, soundtracks and radio shows and can supply tapes of these either on 4-track reel-to-reel or cassette, with or without Dolby in both cases. He is prepared to do this on an exchange basis or at very reasonable cost. Frank feels that as blank cassettes are now more readily available and indeed seem to be the principal means of recording these days he would prefer to work with cassettes wherever possible.

G.A. (Tony) JONES, 26 Dainton House, Gt. Western Rd., London, W.2: has a comprehensive collection and is an expert in the recording fieldbut concedes like the others that his collection doesn't match Bob's.

I have ascertained that these three members have high-class equipment and record in first-class fashion. Other members who are willing to undertake taping activities are invited to forward details of their abilities and they will be included in the list which it is our intention to print in every issue of BING for the convenience and guidance of members. In this way there is no reason at all why members cannot continue to acquire the material they haven't got - and make new friends in the process. And now we return to readers' letters on a variety of subjects:

LIONEL PAIRPOINT, 86 Ellesmere Avenue, Mill Hill, London, NW7 3HD:

Bob Roberts introduced a new world of Bing to me....and when guests comment on my collection, I smile quietly at their ignorance and feel obliged to tell them of my visits to the Crosby Room and the man who had the remaining 99 per cent - and was prepared to share it. Happy listening, Bob....

I have always been a bit of a nut about lyrics and your query about "Mr. Wrigley's Bay" in Bing's AVALON prompts a word. Oddly enough, this reference had a reverse effect on me. I assumed the whereabouts of Avalon by believing the "Mr. Wrigley" to be none other than Wm. Wrigley of chewing-gum fame, whose head office is in Chicago. Therefore, the "Bay" was on Lake Michigan - if not, where is AVALON? Perhaps one of the colonial chappies can help.

> Much more testing is the fragment put forward by David Webster to identify a 'want' in TRADING POST. "It started in..." was the only clue. I can't identify any Bing song with this opening line, particularly not accompanied by Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra but there is, of course, a track on THE SUMMIT featuring the aforementioned duo plus Sammy Davis called "We open in Venice..." That's the best I can offer.

I wind up the lyrics bit by recalling that, in his review of BINGO VIEJO Bert Bishop commented on the fact that Bing doesn't sing any English words at all on LA BORRACHITA. Having heard Lena Romay duet on this with Bing in one of the early Philco Shows I was incited to find out something about it. Its a song of the Mexican revolution I believe and its easy to see from the portion of lyrics I append why Bing offers no literal translation. That's all for now....

Editor: See what you get by reading BING! Here is Lionel's translation of the lyric to LA BORRACHITA!

> My Dear little Drunk,
> I'm leaving to forget you
> I love you very much - and you love me
> My dear little drunk
> I'm going to the capital
> To serve the boss - who sent for me
> The day before yesterday....

I suppose its romantic in a way but not quite the romantic piece the melody

seems to suggest! In other words, its a farewell serenade to a female inebriate - a lady drinker, or, as Bing might say, "a chick who leans heavily on the grape." Bing of course, makes the song sound nothing like so vulgar!

As regards Mr. Wrigley and his bay, we called attention to the fact that no-one had ever seen fit to query Bing's off-beat interpolation to this bay in his rendering of AVALON and that's quite remarkable when you consider the diligence of some Crosbyites in dissecting lyrics! Other readers, principally American ones, are of the opinion that it was indeed Mr. Wrigley who acquired a lot of property down that way and popularised Lake Michigan's Avalon. Which as we said just now, shows it pays to read BING for my gazeteer says Avalon is in France, "dep. Yonne". Not to be confused, of course, with Avignon, sur le pont....

We're grateful to Lionel for his lyric-research - and hope he and his wife are now enjoying better health. In his letter he said they were the personification of those "enjoying the worst of good-health...."

PHIL WOOD, 59 McDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NA:

I enjoy the magazine very much and I think a big 'thank you' is due to all the people responsible for producing it. I failed to see any mention of "Dr. Cook's Garden" in its pages and I wonder why, because it was a most enjoyable TV film to my wife and I at any rate. Bing's portrayal of a mercy-killing doctor was great. I sometimes get the impression in reading the magazine that there is a bias towards presenting Bing as a happy-go-lucky guy without a care in the world which, of course, is quite wrong. Bing has his serious side and also he has played many serious roles in his films &c. It seems to be a bit daft to try and give the impression that he spends all his time golfing, fishing and cavorting round the world without a heavy thought in his mind.

Sounds as if I have a lot of moans about the magazine. I don't really for I enjoy it thoroughly and the things I have written are meant to be a basis, perhaps, for other readers to pass their opinions on what I've suggested.

Editor: This is one letter that did surprise me - and I thought I'd got beyond surprising! Do we REALLY give the impression about Bing that Phil suggests? Surely not - no one is more aware of the fact that Mr. C. often is a most earnest, philosophic and certainly erudite man. No doubt the emphasis is on the entertaining side of this remarkable man - but what of the news of that fine interview with the Scottish schoolgirl we "splashed"; and of Bing's publicly-lamented "failure" with his first family of boys? His pain at Dixie's passing and subsequent regaining of happiness? Just a few instances - there are scores of others where we have presented Bing as a very, very responsible person indeed. And those who have had the privilege of meeting Bing know for certain that he can be totally different from his public 'image'. Naturally.

As regards the TV film, regrettably DR. COOKE'S GARDEN was not shewn generally over here but only on certain ITV channels. It is true as Phil Wood said, that Bing has played some very sombre roles indeed - and I haven't liked them all that much! Not because Bing didn't prove he could act as well as sing, but frankly, I much prefer Mr. C the world's singing troubadour to be just that - and not a liquor-laden grief-stricken character! But I didn't think that preference spilled over to give the "playboy" image of Bing that Phil seems to have conjured up. Any opinions?

A.A.SAMPLES, "Hillsboro" 33 Tawney Str., Boston, Lincs:

It is always a joy to hear that large envelope being squeezed through the letter box. I greatly enjoyed the BINGO VIEJO and FEELS GOOD, FEELS RIGHT albums, but found the SOUTHERN MEMOIR album very disappointing. And as stated, the albums were seemingly withdrawn rather quickly tho' I see the cassettes are still available.

(Cont

I see it mentioned in the last issue that the ICC did issue some records exclusively for members a few years ago. Do you think there is any chance of doing the same again - sort of our own club LP to mark Bing's 50th Anniversary with members putting forward say 12 songs that they would most like to hear again on LP. I know you are putting in a lot of work with the magazine - not to mention the LP-ography and other projects, and mine is only a suggestion!

Editor: And a good one, too - but there are inevitably snags. The records issued under the aegis of the ICC have been radio shows, or TV soundtracks, where it is difficult to trace the copyright. At least, with the very old radio programmes though it seems that these are now being well covered by Totem, Spokane, and other small independent labels. Other ICC records have comprised the rather tatty Mack Sennett short soundtracks - tho' I hasten to add that many people consider Bing's singing in these quaint shorts to be among the finest he has done. Still yet again, EPs have been put out by us including Bing's messages to the ICC from time to time but apart from their intrinsic interest, they soon become just souvenirs for there was no music on them.

But when you come to picking songs you would like to hear again, it sounds like commercial records! And that is indeed a minefield - where the danger from prosecution over copyright is very, very real. That is what hamstrings us on this issue. You just cannot issue privately tracks made for Decca, MCA, Phillips and so on. The actual pressing of several hundred LPs can easily be arranged - at a price, of course - but the content is a vastly different matter and not to be embarked upon. If we could make up an LP content of hitherto unissued material (on record as opposed to tape dubbings) we would certainly consider the idea. So if one of the prolific collectors could submit not only a list, but good-quality tapes of them, we'll investigate without delay.

Mr. Sample's thought to ask members for 12 songs makes me quail! At a rough guess I reckon we would get 2,000 suggestions! Mainly different.....

STAN WILLCOX, 21 The Littleway, Leicester, LE5 4PN:

While on holiday I read Ray Milland's book WIDE-EYED IN BABYLON and it contains a very nice tribute to Bing when he was at the Coconut Grove with Gus Arnheim's Orchestra, Harry Barris and Al Rinker.

It was one of the special Sunday nights at the Grove when celebrities got up and entertained their colleagues. This "star" night took place once a month on a Sunday - the day when most of them were free of their own activities. Bing had done his "spot" with The Rhythm Boys and then what Ray Milland describes as the "third most moving happening of the night" (the other two were Grace Moore and W.C.Fields) took place. Quoting the book:

> "One of the Rhythm Boys, the blonde and lackadaisical one, named Bing Crosby, stepped to the microphone and in a surprisingly fine baritone started Gounod's AVE MARIA. Immediately there was a hush, not even a plate moved. It is not a long piece and is usually reprised. When he came to the reprise I heard a soft soprano drift in from a table near the stage. Towards the end both voices came in full, and when they finished the hush remained. I looked at Asher (MGM Publicity man who was looking after Ray Milland) but he didn't know I was there. He was rapt, transported. Then the roar started, chairs were pushed back and people stood. The applause was deafening - it was so emotional. The girl was Lily Pons - the date late August or early September 1930."

Ray Milland had just arrived in Hollywood to start his film career.

Editor: At last, a new original story of Bing's early days - and we're grateful to Stan Willcox for putting it our way - we would have missed it otherwise. Lily Pons, newer and younger members may not know, was a very celebrated operatic

soprano. Coincidentally, as those who saw Ray Milland's THIS IS YOUR LIFE on TV some months ago will know, Ray Milland was brought up in S. Wales and is well-remembered by quite a lot of people in this area.

Its a lovely story - and should have crushed at birth the "crooner" tag that had been bestowed on Bing.

MICHAEL DUXBURY, 15 Dawlish Close, Heys Lane Estate, Blackburn, Lancs:

I am one of your younger members at 24 years of age but I think that Bing is the greatest singer ever. All I wish is that I had been alive during the first half of this great man's career - but to see him on stage at the Palladium more than makes up for that loss.

> I would also like to ask a question which has worried me for some time. On the LP BING CROSBY AND THE ANDREWS SISTERS VOL 3 (Coral) there is another male singer on the ANYTHING YOU CAN DO/ THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS tracks. Could you please let me know who this 'rogue' male is as I have no idea.

Editor: The 'rogue' - tho' there are many fans who will feel indignant at the description, is of course, none other than DICK HAYMES, a very considerable singer/film actor of the 40's and later, with a strong, attractive voice - as you can hear on the two tracks mentioned. Another claim to fame of Dick Haymes was that he was once married to Rita Hayworth - now the younger members will ask: Who is Rita Hayworth!! More seriously, Dick had a big following, perhaps he still has and he was certainly worth listening to at the time he teamed up for this Bing/Andrews Sisters recording. He made no others with Bing, but subsequently lived in England for some years and a few years back made a come-back attempt. I heard him on TV and he was but a shadow of the singer he was in the 40's, alas. It is believed he is now resident in America. Many other members besides Michael have enquired who this singer was on the records mentioned. The record companies are often surprisingly remiss in not mentioning the fact when other artists have been involved with Bing in their issues. One in particular that comes to mind is the Phillips EP issue of Bing with the Mills Brothers in MY HONEY'S LOVIN' ARMS - with no mention of the Brothers. And I recall the astonishment of a younger member when, during the course of an interminable chat on Bing, I pointed this out. I'm not sure that even now he believes that the Mills Brothers used no instruments at all except for the one guitar!

GIL McKEE, 26 Whitehill Ave. Bangor, Co. Down, Northern Ireland:

And you don't like AMAPOLA? Well, one man's meat....we can't all like the same things, can we? Personally I think there is far too much 'expert' opinion on arrangements and phrasing etc. They make it all so complicated. Just lie back and enjoy Crosby - that's my motto. I couldn't care less if there was a tin band backing Bing (as long as he could be heard).

Anyway, for years he was saddled with dull and boring as well as montonous backing from the great (?) John Scott Trotter.

Editor: Well, that at least is a letter which doesn't leave me unmoved. But Gil, obviously with the best of intentions, destroys his main argument with his very own words..... "I couldn't care less if there was a tin band backing Bing - AS LONG AS HE COULD BE HEARD." Precisely. The main criticism of some of the contemporary albums, as I read it, is that Bing has to struggle to be heard.

And surely Gil gets way out of line as regards John Scott Trotter? Bing wasn't "saddled" with him - he was carefully chosen by Bing and gave Bing tremendous service for 20-odd years. We've said before, however, that perhaps the sheer mountain of work he and Bing did together resulted in some predictability. But at least, J.S.T. never, never lost sight of the fact that he was accompanying

Bing. He never tried to "steal" the recording, was content to showcase the Crosby voice - and in the end succeeded in embellishing them. Much the same could be said, no doubt, for that other long-term accompanist, Victor Young. And if Gil or anyone else for that matter, has NOT listened very carefully to J.S.T.'s work they would be well-rewarded if they did. One could give scores of examples from around the 330 records he made with Bing - beautiful string work (listen to EMBRASSE-MOI BIEN and see how he pre-dated, for instance, Mantovani, or the surge of cellos in MAY BE); the smooth, even dulcet trombones, and one doesn't often hear dulcet trombones. J.S.T., in my humble opinion, made few if any errors.

In my humble opinion: and that I mean, exactly. I'm with Gil (tho' I don't really understand what he means) that there are no "experts" on the Crosby voice - or that is what he says by implication. Quite so. There are discographical experts - those who can name any record, when it was made, the matrix no. the cat. number, who accompanied and so on and so on; there are film experts who can give all the details of Bing's films at the drop of a hat. But there are no experts on the Crosby voice. How can there be? Everyone gets his own enjoyment - his or hers - from Bing and one opinion is certainly as expert as another. I recognise no experts on this aspect of Bing - and I would be most annoyed if anyone referred to me as such. There are those who like the 30's Bing, the ballad Bing, the jazz-Bing, the comedy Bing...sure, and that's how it should be. There are those who like the big-band-Bing, the modern Bing, the 60's Bing and goodness knows how many other Bings!

Yet it must be noted that a remarkable number of people today comment on the fact that Bing often seems to be struggling against overwhelming accompaniment. And one doesn't need to be an expert to detect this. But if anyone likes that, all well and good. There's room for all shades of view.

Its true I don't like AMAPOLA's arrangement. I cannot believe that Bing does, either. This, when first written and heard, was a soft, rhythmic, serenade.... I must agree with a correspondent entirely who described the arrangement on SOUTHERN MEMOIR as "idiotic". That percussion-dominated phrasing between choruses sounds musically-surrealistic - a musical nightmare. But, that's only my inexpert opinion!

DEREK COLLINGE, 41 Marsden Hall Rd., Nelson, Lancs. BB9 9PA:

(After asking who is the singer with ANYTHING YOU CAN DO &c. Derek asks): On the LP BING SINGS THE GREAT SONGS there are two tracks with another singer - ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET and TEA FOR TWO. Who are they?

Editor: TEA FOR TWO is with Connee Boswell, of course. The other was, and is, one of those cases where the record NOR discographies give any clue! The only answer to the interpolations with Bing on SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET is that it can only be the bandleader, Louis Jordan.

MR. H. GLEDHILL, 20 Frederick Avenue, Barnsley, Yorks:

To the powers that be, couldn't someone get Mr. C. to bring his musical auto-biography set of 1952-53 up to-date? It would be a nice little job for him, all pre-recorded material he would just have to add the narrative - which for me 'made' the last set. To hell with contractual arrangements - this is Bing we are talking about. A legend in our time!

Editor: Hear hear! A magnificent declaration with which we heartily concur! Here is the inevitable "but"! It has been established that Bing's epic musical autobiography (5-album set) would never have become a reality but for the unre-lenting efforts of the late Buddy Cole who had to pester Bing continually..... will someone else take on that mantle? Someone who counts, we mean. And even if somebody could - I'm afraid there's little hope that the hard-headed business men who hold the copyright of Bing's post-1953-4 recordings would share Mr.

Gledhill's flamboyant clarion call. Bing has appeared on a varied list of labels since his marathon contract with Decca ended in 1954 - Polydor, Daybreak, MGM, Phillips, United Artists, RCA and goodness knows how many others if we care to check. We hate being defeatist in the face of enthusiasm but remembering how hard Buddy Cole had to work last time - and there were many fewer companies involved - its hard to be optimistic.

Equally desirable would be for Bing to bring his written autobiography (CALL ME LUCKY) up to date but he shows little disposition to do this, either! In the interview he gave last year to the Scottish schoolgirl he was asked if he wanted to write and replied that he thought writing was the hardbest of jobs - it needs scheduled, regimented diligence was the gist of what he said - and that he didn't feel he could adjust to that. Yet he did admit that he WOULD like to write a book - just one and it would be a simple thing like taking a dozen of the most remarkable people he had met and writing a chapter on each. "This way, " said Bing, "I feel I MIGHT make a worthwhile book. But nothing grander...." It will be recalled that CALL ME LUCKY was "ghosted" by another writer - at least, the title sheet of that book says "as told to Pete Martin". So, make what you can of it.

Phillips, for instance, show no inclination at all to reissue STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE which is so requested these days that it couldn't fail to be a good seller. But, we like your idea Mr. Gledhill! Let's hope Bing does - he reads this, of course.

"I was listening to LA BORRACHITA today when something happened which could only happen when listening to Bing. I had the windows wide open and the birds were whistling merrily away in the garden - and when Bing started whistling it blended perfectly with the birds and seemed to encourage them more....." John Bignell

Boozy birds, no doubt! - Editor.

STAN AUSTIN, Pear Tree Avenue, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Midd'x:

I certainly agree with the views expressed in the mag about songs by today's "superstars" - mainly appalling trash. I am convinced that the majority of people have lost the ability to listen. I have nearby neighbours who seem unable to exist without the radio or record player thump, thump, thumping away. Even some older people of my acquaintance - old enough I would have thought to know better - switch on the radio as soon as they get up and turn it off only when they go to bed. Is there some deep-laid plan of a mysterious "take-over" group? Are we on the way to the life-style of "1984"? Or Hitler's Germany where constant propaganda in the form of booming bass notes will reduce us to unthinking cabbages?

And isn't it all so boring! The first chorus (if that's the word) is exactly the same as the second, and the third and the fourth until the "performers" themselves seem to tire of it and at a loss as to how to finish it beseech the sound engineer to fade 'em out! Thank goodness we still have the records of Bing and his contemporaries - with such as SONGS I WISH I HAD SUNG - each differing in style, approach, timing - no boredom here. As for rest listening, put on the original recording of PLEASE and listen thro' the Crosby vocal for the shimmering curtain of Eddie Lang's guitar.

Maybe one day the drug-like state induced by "pop" music will become so bad that some enterprising record company will issue discs with no sound recorded on them at all so that we can put them on the turntable - and listen to absolute silence! If that time comes I want it stated here and now that I thought of it FIRST, and I claim the patent.

Editor: We don't usually rail too much about the current age of mediocrity, but

Stan's letter is not without humour. The answer is, of course, MONEY! Lots and lots of it. "Pop" music, as opposed to popular music, is now a colossal get-rich-quick-and-stay-rich thing and the quality doesn't really matter. Grab the ear of the kids (teenagers and under) and, to use the current cynicism, you laugh all the way to the bank. Age of mediocrity? How else can it be described when acts make a nervous appearance on NEW FACES, or OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS - and within a few months they have their own "TV Spectaculars"! There are at least six acts, or performers, enjoying that experience just now and I think its fair to say that five of them would have been laughed off the stage in derision in the 30's - in an Amateur Talent Show! Still, let's leave it there - but I do like Stan's idea of a blissfully silent record!

"Thank you very much indeed for the June issue of the magazine, which my wife says keeps me occupied and out of trouble for a couple of evenings at least..." - and we're NOT putting a name to that one!

MICHAEL F. COLLINS, St. Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Rd. Bayswater, LONDON W2:

I fully agree that DAY DREAMING is a Crosby classic. I first heard it on Chas. Thompson's BBC series and snapped it up immediately it was released on LP. Personally, I can never remember any record Bing made with J. Scott Trotter which I DIDN'T enjoy. I've been playing ITS ANYBODY'S SPRING endlessly for the past week; vintage Crosby, relaxed, effortless, yet supremely authoritative. However, I would agree with your correspondent that SOUTHERN MEMOIR (apart from that dreadful opening track on Side 2) was the pick of the recent bunch. But everyone to his taste.....

Editor: Talk about the other side of the coin! Yes, it must be everyone to his taste if John Scott Trotter and Paul Smith can be reconciled in that taste! To save you looking - the opening track side 2 of MEMOIR is WAY DOWN YONDER IN NEW OI NS wherein are contained three or four different rhythms including a rumba in the middle. But does Michael mean track 1 - or track 2? The latter is GEORGIA which I personally still find an ordeal to listen to....NOW who says we laud everything? Michael, by the way, is the Rev....and was kind enough to send me a very lengthy report (including picture) of Bing on Broadway IN ITALIAN!

Incidentally, in the sleeve notes of SOUTHERN MEMOIR (which is a verbatim conversation between Bing and Geoff Milne of Decca) Bing says: Paul Smith has some rhythms going that are quite unique.... to use the American idiom, they sure are.

JONATHAN RUSSELL, 137 Midfield Way, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2QL;

I'm in a bit of a hurry as I've got an "O" level in an hour-and-a-half so I won't say any more - just PLEASE post the LPography as soon as you can - and tell everybody to get going on the discography (please!)....

Editor: "O" Levels....yes sir. What a taskmaster. We certainly have to cater for all ages, don't we? "O" levellers and greybeards....the fascination of Crosbyana.

KEN BROWN, 42 West Avenue, Pinner, Midd'x:

Delighted to report that thanks to the mention of Hoovey's Book Service in the March issue of BING I am now the very proud owner of Bing's book CALL ME LUCKY! which Hoovey's found for me. I can still hardly believe I have it for I have been rummaging around jumble sales and secondhand book shops for years looking for it and had virtually given up hope. Visited the Palladium to see the John Curry Ice Show and it was pleasing to see the poster advertising Bing's show prominently displayed alongside the stage and illuminated from behind whilst the house-lights

were on!

Editor: Ken is one of several readers who have been fortunate with CALL ME LUCKY! The resources are not known but if you care to try the address again it is Miss Lightfoot, Hooveys Book Service, 10 Claremont, Hastings, Sussex.

JOHN BYRON, Tone Str., Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland:

The non-event of the K-Tel promotion in England was a big disappointment. It was an even bigger one over here as it has not appeared at all! An even bigger mystery is that it is the ONLY K-Tel album that hasn't been issued in Ireland and advertised on Irish Television - tho' I understand it was available in Northern Ireland. Now, its true the music scene in this part of the world is dominated by "Country" and pop, hard rock etc. etc. but Bing would have sold much better here than Petula Clark and Kings of Swing - two other K-Tel presentations. I've got nothing against either of these two albums and only mention them because they were heavily promoted over here. It was mentioned in the last issue that this album - the Palladium doubler of course - seems to have disappeared remarkably quickly from the shops. This I can well believe as K-Tel records are sold on a lower profit margin but with a sale or return incentive.

I think the FEELS GOOD album is fantastic - even if the drummer almost ruins the lovely quiet mood during the final verse of THE WAY WE WERE, a lovely song. I didn't have the 1960 recording of THE BREEZE AND I (I thought EL SENOR BING a terrible album) but if I remember correctly Bing cheated on the high note which he manages to hit on BINGO VIEJO. CUANDO CALIENTE EL SOL sounds much better on the Palladium album - and sounded even better on stage in Dublin - and AMAPOLA is a disaster, with no blame on Bing. Otherwise its enjoyable.

Editor: Well, there's an explanation for the "disappearance" of the Palladium albums - sale or return. Members in the London area, and one or two other big towns, were surprised when we said the records have disappeared from the shops at incredible speed for it is still available in such places. But the failure to mount the expected TV promotion remains a big mystery. It was virtually non-existent and nothing but a pale shadow of what is usually done for K-Tel issues. Surely someone blundered somewhere? Especially if, as John says, it didn't appear in Ireland at all, where Bing has a big following.

LES STREET, 8 Wyfan Place, Mynachdy, Cardiff:

I have been in touch with the BBC regarding the possibility of showing some of Bing's films to commemorate his 50 years.....had a reply from a Mrs. Sheila Cundy of the Programme Correspondence section thanking me for my interest and saying that they expect to show Bing films very possibly before the end of the year. I had sent them a large list of films which would give a good cross-section of his output - college, Western, Hawaiian, costume, drama &c. Perhaps if other members wrote to this lady the action might be not only confirmed but expedited.

Editor: Sure thing. I know members will respond - write to the lady named at the BBC TV Centre, London, W.12. Some letters bewail the fact that Bing films seemed to have waned lately but in this part of the world we've had ROAD TO RIO, MAN ON FIRE and BELLS OF ST. MARY'S in the last couple of months. ST. MARY'S was shewn on ITV - and shockingly cut! They even cut out that beautiful scene where Ingrid Bergman in teaching the "duffer boy" to stand up for himself and box, finally catches a real clip from him! Still, it WAS a long-running film and most of the singing was included.

MR. G.R.T. (Tom) EVANS, 84 Brereton Rd., New Invention, Willenhall, Staffs, WV12 5LR:

I was a member/joint organiser for the Midlands of the pre-War Bing Club - from around 1937. It would be nice to know how many members still remain from those days?

Editor: Tom was district housing officer for Birmingham Housing Dept., until premature retirement recently on health grounds. It would be most interesting if any Midlands members were associated with Tom in those far-off days. There were many such clubs pre-War in different parts of the country. Tom enclosed two letters he had received from Bing - and it has been remarked here before, Bing's signature hasn't changed over all those years. One letter reads:

"Dear Mr. Evans: Glad to hear from you. I appreciate knowing how my efforts are received and welcome any suggestions. I sincerely hope you will like my last picture, WAIKIKI WEDDING. It is a little different from anything I've done so far. I have started work at Paramount on a new picture, DOUBLE OR NOTHING. I am fortunate in having Mary Carlisle with me again for the first time since we played together in COLLEGE HUMOR.

I am glad you like my broadcast on the Kraft Music Hall every Thursday evening and hope that you enjoy the guest stars I have each time. The picture is being sent under separate cover.

Best wishes, and many thanks for your interest. Sincerely yours,

BING.

April 12, 1937"

A real and authentic echo of the past; in addition to all the other records Bing holds surely he must have answered more fan letters than any other artist!

GEORGE MOORCROFT, 74 Teynham Crescent, Liverpool, L11 3BJ:

Bing Crosby - the man whose wonderful efforts in show business, individual recordings, and TV appearances for 50 years past, and the man who brought love and joy to the hearts of millions, male and female, all over the globe - May God Bless Him.

I hope and trust sincerely that he is recovering from his recent misfortune in Pasadena....."home in Pasadena..." beautiful song.

To me, Mr. Crosby is IMMORTAL and I have had a long-standing wish, since the early 30's in fact, to shake the hand in true sincerity with the ONE AND ONLY. There could never be another like him. I wonder if ever this wish will come to be realised? To my dying day Bing's WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT will echo and re-echo in my ears.

Editor: Well! Used as we are to letters extolling Bing's undoubted virtues, some of the fervency takes even us by surprise. The hard-headed discographers may quail - but can anyone doubt the sincerity of this letter? We can only hope that the on-off question is finally settled and that Bing does indeed appear at Liverpool Empire; then perhaps George will get his lifetime's ambition realised. Note this letter came from a man who first heard Bing in the early 30's, not a recent, youthful, convert. Good luck to you, George.

LEWIS CRAIG, Franklin, Tn. 37064, USA:

Glad that I discovered the ICC....obtained the Palladium LPs plus SOUTHERN MEMOIR and BINGO VIEJO from England's SWING SHOP. Founds FEELS GOOD at a mail-order record shop in Chicago. If my hazy memory serves - Mr. Wrigley

owned Avalon and developed it as a resort back 40 or 50 years - the chewing gum Wrigley, of course. Glad you too liked ROSE IN HER HAIR. That's my favorite from that LP, along with THE WAY WE WERE. But then, anything Bing sings is a favorite, from 1926 until today. I must confess that I spent time searching for Crosby 78's while on our honeymoon in New Orleans LA. And that was quite a few years ago.

Last month our local papers (NASHVILLE, TN) ran a story that a tentative date had been set for Bing to appear in Concert in Nashville on Dec. 7th or 8th. Can let you know more about that later. You can bet we will be there.

Editor: An appearance in Nashville - home of "country and western" music, I believe! No doubt they know Bing does that sort of number (we used to call 'em cowboys songs) as well as he does anything else. But the charisma associated with Nashville might just put Bing back well and truly where he belongs! This would appear to be scheduled for when Mr. C. returns to the States from Britain. We'll await further news with great interest.

HARRY NOLAN, Spokane, 7 Saxon Rise, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex: Our Dutch friend, Noor Van Heel whose delightful article appeared in the last issue of the magazine and which we liked very much, has been in touch both by telephone and letter and she will be coming to see Bing at the Palladium for we have got the tickets for her. Re. young David Ward I managed to get a spare copy of the Palladium programme but he wrote back a very nice letter thanking me for the offer telling me he had already obtained a copy from Vera Roberts. In his letter he hopes we will be able to keep in touch - we shall, of course. And our young friend in Hastings, Tony Harrison, comes over most week-ends for a Bing natter and we are always pleased to see him. Last, but certainly not least, I had a letter from Bing and judging by the contents he seems to have well recovered from his nasty fall as over the years in the many letters I have received from him the secretary for the first time began the letter : "Dear Mr. Nolan" Bing had promptly run his pen thro' that and wrote in "Dear Harry..."

Editor: Always good to hear of these Bing friendships - and nice to know that petite Noor is coming to England again.

LES BRICE, 5 Rush Green Gardens, Romford, Essex:

I've written to John Bassett saying that the new LPography is superior even to THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY discography. I especially liked the listing of alternate takes. I queried with John the inclusion of AMERICA I HEAR YOU SINGING in UK Reprise listings. I've never heard that this album was released here. I spent years trying to get it from the States. In the end Dick Pearson got me THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND. I'm sure that our discographies have got it wrong.

I heard from Les Gaylor recently saying that back in the 60's Capitol acquired all the Project records material. Its no wonder then that RCA couldn't place HOW THE WEST WAS WON. They no longer own it! But can we now expect to see HOLIDAY IN EUROPE on the Capitol label?

Editor: Praise indeed for the LPography (of which more elsewhere); but a complete listing remains a complete listing and its nice that the LPog can be mentioned alongside the monumental ROAD TO BING CROSBY discography. The LPog does admit the possibility that AMERICAN I HEAR YOU SINGING may not exist here? Or am I mixed up - again! But who IS going to reissue HOW THE WEST WAS WON!!!???? It would delight a lot of people.

JOHN MILNE, 78 Fotheringhay Rd., Corby, Northants, NN17 2RQ:

I feel I must add my little bit about the slightly controversial film STAR NIGHT

inverted and the roles mixed.

> Bing has recorded IT HAD TO BE YOU, in 1952. It appeared on a 78 and also, later on, on an EP BING AND TIE DIXIELAND BANDS. But for some reason, when a LP of BING AND THE DIXIELAND BANDS was produced this particular number was omitted. Apart from Bing's singing, the record is notable for a quite poignant cornet solo which beautifully complements Bing's singing. The 78 is Bruns. 05150, and the EP OE 9359 - and a note in the discography says that it, with IDA, SWEET AS APPLE CIDER, and NOBODY'S SWEETHEART of the same date were possibly taken from a radio broadcast and adapted by Decca as commercial recordings. I have only the EP but I'm sure Audrey would be very grateful for a copy of the 78 or the EP. And I should have noted above that the cornet solo is by Red Nichols, playing with John Scott Trotter's Dixieland Group.

And I hope I have given't the impression that Audrey's was the only letter received from the fairer sex (I'm trying to make up!) - it was just how things turned out when I got down to Editing this feature. To all those whose letters have not appeared, thanks just the same. They were appreciated.

And, so far as I can recall, another innovation. A poem on Bing, just short of a sonnet, in fact. Its not that we're averse to a verse. We just don't get many of them:

BING CROSBY

Brighter the hours when I hear Bing's sweet song,

Inspiring his music today,

No-one can point out a note that is wrong,

Great his performance alway.

Crooner of melodies - styling his own,

Richly resounding a-far,

Offering such pleasure in comforting tone,

Sweetly he keeps above par,

By all modern standards he still rates the best,

Yealding great talent above all the rest.....

Clifford Heyworth,
Lancashire Authors' Assocn.

Mor-Cliffe,
42 Victoria Parade
Morecambe,
Lancs, LA4 5NZ

AT THE COCOANUT GROVE. I remember the part with Bing in it as if it was yesterday. Mary Pickford, who introduced the show and all the stars concerned, came to the wonderful moment of Bing's introduction. I can almost remember the dialogue...Mary Pickford said that she had had letters from many of her fans asking if she could appear in a film with Bing. She apologised for not having appeared in such a film already and there were no plans for one in the near future. However, she would correct this at once by asking Bing to join her and so they could appear together on film. Amid polite applause Bing rose from his seat at a table and joined her. After a little chit-chat Mary asked Bing is he would sing, to which Bing said something like: "Glad to...." and the song he sang, quite definitely, was WITH EVERY BREATH I TAKE. No doubt about it at all. I remember that high- finishing note for all time.

> The strangest thing about all this is that while the Bing episode remains crystal clear in my mind - I can't remember one other star or what the rest of the film was like!

Editor: There's a Bing man, for you!

S. R. SCOTT, 63 Shard Close, LIVERPOOL, L11 0DP:

When you mentioned Newport in the last issue of BING (you had your car "stolen" there) it brought back a memory of Bing for me. We had driven a convoy of vehicles down from Glasgow to Newport destined for the Middle East. The time was the winter of 1940-41. On the latter part of the journey it snowed very heavily and, to make it worse, my windscreen wipers packed up and I drove with my head out of the side window. Eventually we got rid of the vehicles and made our way to Newport Barracks where we were to be fed.

After a very long wait the cook and his helper appeared and was just on the point of serving up some hot food (we were starving) when from a loudspeaker - it was either an internal broadcast or from the BBC - came Bing's voice singing MEXICALI ROSE. The cook stopped his preparations and shouted: "That's it lads! No grub will be served until Bing has finished!"

And believe it or not - there wasn't a word of protest from anybody. And we were cold AND hungry! For myself, I felt much better and even forget the grub for a time!

Editor: Typical Bing story - nice to hear, too. Now, I'm a little afraid to look back over this generous slice of members' letters for I have a very uncomfortable feeling that there is not much, if anything, included from LADY members! Checking back shows that I AM indeed the male chauvinist of the Crosby world - if only quite unintentionally! But at the eleventh hour here is a letter from:

MRS. AUDREY COOPER, 30 Broadway East, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 1AG:

I enjoyed the June issue of BING - and was sorry to hear of your car episode but pleased it ended quite well. I like MAYBE very much too. I would like Bing to do a dreamy, soothing, album. It would be marvellous as he does these so superbly. I wondered if Bing has recorded IT HAD TO BE YOU - one of my favourites. Isn't FEELS GOOD FEELS RIGHT a wonderful album? Bing really is peerless, as you often say.

> I like the backings a bit "old-fashioned" a la Victor Young and John Scott Trotter but I know we should move with the times. But not too far, I hope - not too much of the bash,crash, "Starsky & Hutch" stuff. I want to HEAR Bing.

Editor: Sweet reason indeed. We like the old but must move with the times. I imagine Audrey mentions Starsky & Hutch as the up-to-the-minute "trend" figures.... but the analogy is closer than that. In some of those "police" stories of S & H its difficult to tell who are the criminals and who are the police! Like some modern recordings in a way - who is the STAR, the singer or the band? Things get

rather confused! The next letter, also from the fair(er) sex is a trifle more militant, though not too much so:

SECONDS OUT! - MRS. JUNE COATES, 4 Somerset Rd., Droylsden, Lancs:

I am quite mad at the remark that John Bassett made about the recording GIOCCA MORA. Its a lovely recording on a lovely album. Maybe if he and I could meet there would be a real row!

Editor: Choose your weapons! Only fair to say that a large number of readers were astonished (for want of a better word!) at John's assessment of this song. Perhaps John KNEW it would produce such a result...and had his tongue in his cheek? Anyway, far from the domestic scene comes a letter from Australia:

JACK BRADY, 47 Hawker Avenue, Plympton Park, Sth. Australia 5038: After my first letter to you (in the March BING) within a week of its appearance I had an airmail letter from KEITH PARKINSON and has he been an obliging person! Nothing is too much trouble for him and through his kindness I have received several of Bing's records and he is presently looking around for a couple more, viz OLD MASTERS VOLS 1 and 3 that I asked about. He has to be one of nature's real gentlemen to send me, a complete stranger to him, what I wanted. May be that is Crosbyana. Also, another result of that letter was that I received a visit from two members of the local (Australian) BING club, namely Graham Reed and Doug Black. You may have met Graham at the Palladium Reg as he and his wife saw every concert but one. Doug Black used to run a 30-min broadcast on a local radio station on a Sunday afternoon. I of course didn't miss a broadcast - little knowing that years later I would have the pleasure of meeting Doug in person. Graham is taking me to the next meeting where no doubt I shall meet a lot more Bing admirers.

Once again, my sincere thanks to you and the Circle....

Editor: Yes, that is indeed Crosbyana. I'm sure you recall Jack's letter in March. I'm delighted to hear that Keith Parkinson has been so kind to this Aussie friend not to mention of course our two old-time stalwarts who took the trouble to look up Jack Brady. Talk about friends around the world, hands across the sea, etc.

Keith Parkinson by the way hasn't appeared in our pages of late, I regret to say, but will be known to most of you as a film expert, Crosby and otherwise. I've just learned he has a new address. It is:

KEITH PARKINSON,
57 Rakesmoor Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, CUMBRIA, LA14 4LQ.

WHILE GREETING OUR GREAT Aussie mates, it is a fair bet that we in Britain enjoyed the cricket season much more than they did! Well, it makes a change, doesn't it! I hope they don't begrudge us the resurgence of our Test Team - even if one of their kinsman is breaking it up already. A cricket win, over Australia more than any other country, gives us a rare tonic - so rejoice with us, mates.

I understand that Australians received a ration of the day's play via satellite during the Test Matches - and I couldn't help thinking back to 1930 when I used to hurry home from my paper-round as a boy of 14 to press my ear against the old-time wireless to catch the last hour's play relayed via the BBC from Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth.....Melbourne....Ryder, Woodfull, Grimmett, Fairfax, Oldfield...and soon, the greatest batsman of all time, the great Don...happy days. And now they see it on the other wise of the world - in colour as it happens. And that, of course, was just about the time wireless was grabbing me (for life!) with dance bands - and Bing Crosby! The Aussies may like to know that their bowlers really bowled well; the astonishing truth is that for once the Aussie batting was brittle.....

FOR THE RECORD

not to be confused with KEEPING TRACK!

...or for the sake of posterity: Bing's tour as originally outlined in the first press reports was:

BING CONCERT

> The legendary crooner Bing Crosby, who makes a welcome return to this country in September, will now undertake a short, five-date British provincial theatre tour prior to his two week season at the London Palladium, which commences on September 26.
>
> The tour, which will be presented by Derek Block, by arrangement with Harold Davison, opens on September 15 at the Brighton Conference Centre, followed by one-night only appearances at the Gaumont Theatre, Southampton (Sept 16); Empire Theatre, Liverpool (Sept 21); Guildhall, Preston (Sept 22); and Belle Vue, Manchester (September 23).
>
> Joining Bing on tour will be wife Cathy, singer Rosemary Clooney, the celebrated jazz pianist Joey Bushkin and his Quartet, and British comedian Ted Rogers, who scored such a notable success on tour with Crosby recently in America.
>
> Bing Crosby was last seen in Britain in June last year when he made his debut appearance at the London Palladium which met with outstanding sell-out success."

Thus MUSIC WEEKLY, late in July. And, of course, they meant July last year, not June. Subsequently it was announced that Bing would not undertake the Liverpool date. This must have been disappointing for Bing has a big following there. Perhaps it was felt that fairly nearby Manchester would cover the area. And the above piece, we need hardly emphasise, appeared long before August 15 when Bing made his "return" at the Concord Pavilion.

Then much later, an advertisement appeared in THE SUNDAY TIMES of September 11 which, with the already mentioned presentation details, showed these dates:

Guild Hall, Preston - Thursday 22 September: Kings Hall, Belle Vue, Manchester Friday 23 Sept.

Gaumont, Southampton - Sunday 25th September: Brighton Centre, Monday October 10.

During the week following this advertisement there was yet another newspaper item saying the Gaumont, Southampton, date had been cancelled.

No doubt all those excited members who obtained tickets for the cancelled concerts were informed in time. This underlines what has been said about the very real difficulty of keeping members in touch.

LOUIS BENJAMIN, Palladium Managing Director said: "Bing's Palladium appearance last year - his first-ever on the London stage in 50 years of showbusiness - caused a box-office stampede. It was impossible for all his fans to see him in those two weeks and I am delighted and proud that we have managed to arrange a return for this September."

We doubt if all his fans would see him in 10 years! appearances....

SOME OF OUR MEMBERS -

JAMES DINEEN (GLASGOW) who had the "tour off" letter from Bing, was subsequently specially invited by Bing to the TV studios a week ago to watch the taping of a TV show. James reports "Bing looked great - and sang in grand style...."

ARTHUR BLOOD, 597 Osmaston Rd., Derby, whom we reported as having had painted a special portrait of Bing in oils, was invited to submit it to United Artists for consideration of use for the new album; ultimately they declined with thanks and settled for a photograph. Arthur, by the way, should certainly be added to the list of members willing and able to undertake taping....

IAN PATIENCE, Ilford, Essex has been busy persuading the National Film Institute to lay on a season of Crosby films.....they are enthusiastic, too and hope to do so.

ENA HOOLEY, Winchester our "elderly" sprite whose trips to London, Leeds, and Newcastle we reported last year had an accident a couple of months back and broke her arm. Fell off a horse!

WIG WIGGINS, one of our Stateside friends has returned to America after a two-year tour-of-duty at the American Embassy in Malta; and we hope that isn't "classified"!

Twelve-year-old HELEN CAIN, of 14 Windsor Rd., Prescot, Merseyside, whom we described in a recent issue as acting as "secretary" for her Dad indignantly informs us she is a Bing fan in her own right! Sorry - and delighted, Helen!

We understand PAT FORSTER, St. Margarets, E. Twickenham, Midd'x has booked for every night of Bing's Palladium fortnight - as she did last year! When she told Bing this at Sunningdale later he said she should have had her money back! Pat is earning herself the reputation of Bing's great female admirer....

We've learned that JOHN MINTON, 125 Turton Rd., Bradshaw, Bolton, Gtr. Manchester is a considerable singer and appears professionally. We have quite a number; Roy Chappell rather sadly reports that his near-success on OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS has made little difference to him. He remains busy, working every night, but the big "break" eludes him. Great shame - you will perhaps not know that he lost by only a handful of votes to the lad Berni Flint....

CARLOS UBACH, Barcelona, Spain will be commuting to London again to see Bing! He sent an urgent request for tickets....we only pray the air controllers' go-slow doesn't cause any hiccup....remember those Liverpool members whose train was slowed by a derailment and arrived in London - at 10.30pm? Just as Bing was taking his series of curtail calls..... What a life! And as we've already reported, Noor Van Heel is deserting her studies at Leiden University in Holland - to see Bing at the Palladium. Its likely too, that a certain Isle of Wight member has booked solidly on the hovercraft for that fortnight ...

JOHN BIGNELL, Wembley, Midd'x thinks life is just a bowl of cherries....his football team is top of the league; so are Brentford (his second favourites); Middlesex nearly gave him a heart-attack on the last day of the cricket season, when they tied top of the table with Kent....he has tickets for Brighton and Palladium...and BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES album is due... Well, he could be right! And we thought that John would provide us with A Scoop for this issue by giving us a "report" on the Brighton concert - but we fear this has gone awry.....

TREVOR WAGSTAFF, Hornchurch, Essex feels that, because of the recent sad bereavement, we should nevertheless keep the Crosby flag flying in the GUINNESS

BOOK OF RECORDS by nominating another member as the No. 1 Crosby collector.... Oh dear, do we have another undisputed cha[illegible]n?

KAREN MACKLEN (a delightful correspondent) is 18 but is in no way inhibited in offering her views - and why SHOULD she be? Listen to these gems: I have to disagree with what you said about THE ROSE IN HER HAIR. Personally, I thought this was the worst track - not a patch on the 1960 version with the Latin beat... my favourite is WHAT'S NEW...its soft, quiet, and Bing sings it with that wonderful baritone resonance that made him so popular....I'm very fond of John Scott Trotter's arrangements of the 40's and 50's - and Cohen's group reminds me of JST very much. However, I thought the arrangement of ROSE IN HER HAIR was muddly, and Bing seemed to be fighting them as he did on GEORGIA ON MY MIND... I wish the arrangers would stick to the melody and not get carried away with 'modern' improvisations. If the song is good, it doesn't need any help from "spaced-out" guitarists! Anyhow, that's my opinion. As a jazz-swing-Dixieland die-hard I like my music played properly! - and that's why I like Bing. He improvises but always to the benefit of the song - the way any good musician should.

Editor: I have a lot in common with Karen - except, alas, age - and ROSE IN HER HAIR! Can't help wondering if the dear girl is familiar with the 1939 WHAT'S NOO...er, sorry, WHAT'S NEW? Odd Bing should pick that out for a modern album; I have always been struck with the wistful melancholia Bing put into this song..... But, keep your opinions going, Karen.

HARRY MARRS, 15 Eastbourne Rd., Darlington remarking on the virtual disappearance (outside London) of the Palladium sets recalls: Back in the 50's when I left school and first started collecting Bing's records I was able to order and obtain without any difficulty, from an ordinary music/record shop Columbia 78s such as LOVE IN BLOOM/TRY A LITTLE TENDERNESS/BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME, and early Brunswicks like WERE YOU SINCERE/TWO CIGARETTES IN THE DARK/JUNE IN JANUARY, etc. etc. At that time these recordings had been in the catalogues for 20years. How different today.....

How different, indeed. Its a different world entirely in most aspects, and assuredly in the record market...it is certainly true, as Harry says, these records were available until well into the 50's, if not the 60's... then the Kings of Rock 'n Roll (sic) took over...and the fast buck became the guiding principle....but we'll not get worked up at this stage of the magazine! Non-Bing thought: Eastbourne Rd., Darlington - that's one helluva road, is it not? (Only a quip!)

LES BRICE, 5 Rush Green Gardens, Romford, Essex: As soon as I heard about the HRB boxed set I wrote to the States enclosing an IMO for 15 dollars. About 10 weeks later I had a form back from V & R Advertising. Printed on it was about twenty reasons why they couldn't supply any particular record - designed to cover any eventuality. But there wasn't one to fit me, for scribbled on the bottom was: "DON'T SHIP TO ENGLAND". But at least, they returned the IMO though it took two weeks to cash it and then I lost over a pound due to the fluctuating exchange rate, fees, &c.

Editor: Which goes to emphasise what we're constantly saying: its very, very difficult to obtain some of the sets which are necessarily mentioned here, just for completeness. Les should strike up a correspondence with a Stateside member - to their mutual advantage in the way of exchanges. It must be added that sending a record abroad CAN (tho' not always) be a tedious business. I once spent three-quarters-of an hour in a Post Office filling up an incredibly detailed form - to post a second-hand album to Spain!

BILL ANNING, 6 Petersham Rd., Long Eaton, Nottingham has a pretty good collection but was mentioning that he cannot trace SILVER THREADS AMONG THE GOLD on LP....

Editor: That song is indeed beautifully rendered by Bing; made in Nov. 1947 with instrumental accompaniment comprising celeste, piano, guitar and bass and with the Ken Darby Choir. It was on Bruns. 03839 (78rpm) and one of the elusive, highly desirable, 10" albums, LA 8585 - which also contained HAPPY BIRTHDAY/AULD LANG SYNE (the title of the album) ANNIVERSARY SONG, WIFFENPOOF SONG, KENTUCKY BABE, NOW IS THE HOUR, HOME, SWEET HOME, DARLING NELLIE GRAY..l.proving there is STILL much of Bing to appear on 12"....

IT'S SEPT. 23RD AND NO "BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES" to hand - BUT to round off this issue we can enlarge upon -

WITH BING AT ELSTREE : by JAMES DINEEN

On 3rd September I received a short note from Bing which included the phone number of the flat where he and the family are staying so that I could ring Alan Fisher (Bing's butler) regarding the Christmas TV video-taping...receiving the letter at 8.15am I managed to restrain myself until 9.30am before ringing. "I'm Alan Fisher - call me Allan," was the cheerful greeting. He went on to explain that he was with Bing when he wrote me the note - and that it was the intention that he and I went along to the TV studios at Elstree on the same day. Furthermore, he would ring me to tell me which day it was to be...

Monday, 5th September I duly received a call from Alan Fisher who said in quite an excited voice that we should go to the studios the very next morning. "All the Crosbys will be there - also Twiggy, Ron Moody, Stanley Baxter and a chap called Dave Bowie." He also asked me who I intended bringing with me and I told him only my young son, Colin. And Alan kindly arranged to meet me at Euston the next morning...when I rang back to tell him I would be on the 10.10 Alan laughed, and said what a coincidence! That's one of the songs Bing will be singing, TEN TEN TEN FROM TENNESSEE though, not Glasgow!

I found Alan to be a big, beaming, chap...at Bing's flat I found the family had already left for Elstree and Alan enjoined us to make ourselves at home until the car - Bing's Daimler - called for us! As Colin was the tallest of us, Alan got him to fix the bathroom lamp which had "blown" the previous night, leaving all the Crosbys with a dark bathroom! Alan talked cheerfully, with great stories, about Bing and the family - and of how kind Bing was to him in the way of holidays. Allowing him, for instance, 6 to 8 weeks a year to visit his family here in England.

Took us about an hour to get to Elstree - and Bing was at work with Cathy and Ron Moody - nevertheless, he came straight over to me and immediately sang a few bars of I BELONG TO GLASGOW! Take it from me, Bing looked great - fuller in the face, and that "drawn-ness" all gone...we spent about 6 hours there altogether. What a field-day for Colin, a keen photographer...Bing asked, when told to stand by the piano for WHITE CHRISTMAS - "Anyone know the words of this song?" Only one "take" was needed - and Bing remarked that he would make the "charts" one day! When Stanley Baxter came onto the set for his part, dressed as the "ghost" who haunts the 500-year-old castle owned by Bing's brother - played by Ron Moody - he had everyone roaring. Bing himself just could not speak being virtually hysterical with mirth. In fact it took three "takes" before Bing could say his lines coherently!

What was a particularly nice thing - and really topped a wonderful day - was the number of people we were introduced to - as "friends of Mr. Crosby...." The day was completed by Bing's chauffeur taking us to Elstree Station, the first stage of our homeward journey. Can you imagine what a tremendous day it was?

Editor: Only just, Jas! We got this story (and had to condense it slightly) just in time to round off this issue of BING. And could there have been a more exciting way to wind-up? I already have a couple of the pictures Colin took - with Bing indeed looking well; and one of Jas. looking most debonair with Cathy! This issue will reach you, say, 24 or 26 September - just to reassure you your issue is not belated. Have a good time!